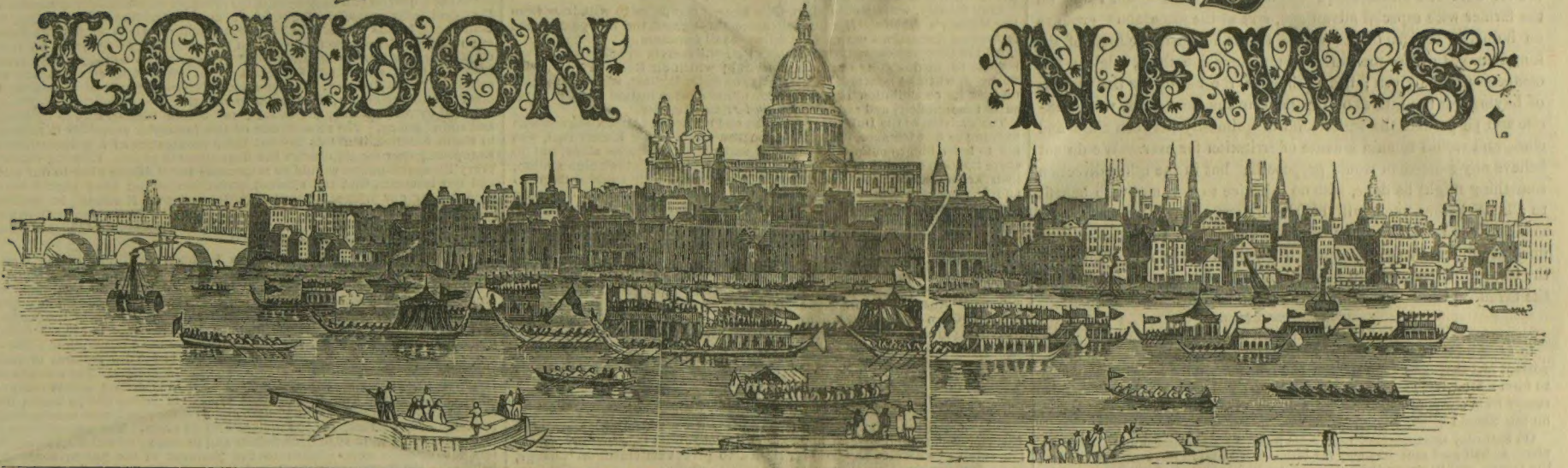


THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



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FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1845.

[SIXPENCE.]

THE RECONSTRUCTION.

THE period of doubt and uncertainty has closed, and, at last, we have a Government. The obstacles that so long delayed Lord John Russell's decision finally prevailed; and just as the world was led to suppose he would undertake the task, it appears he had informed his Sovereign that the task was an impossibility, and that he must altogether decline any farther proceedings. Once more Sir Robert Peel emerged from his retirement; and the slight terror in which his colleagues had been kept for a fortnight, lest the Whigs might succeed, having had its effect, they became tractable, agreed to support his policy whatever that may prove to be, and thus the late Government has been reconstructed, with increased stability.

We last week remarked—

Either there is a great and stern necessity which compels the late Premier to adopt a certain course to meet it, or the resignation is—not exactly a trick, perhaps—but an experiment on the capabilities of others to govern instead of him: if the Ultra-Protectionists under the Duke of Richmond are afraid to try—if the Abolitionists under Lord John Russell try and fail—what then remains but for Peel to come into power again with more influence than ever?

That result has taken place, and the late dissolution of the Cabinet has considerably strengthened the hands of its chief. It has done so in two ways—first, by bringing over to his side those who held aloof, or doubted; and, secondly, by removing altogether one from whom the strongest opposition was to be expected. Lord Stanley quits the Government, in which he has long served with anything but a willing or active spirit. In the general policy of the Cabinet he will not be missed, and great will be the satisfaction of the Colonies at his departure; as he has no party to attach himself to in Opposition, he will not be formidable as an enemy; and thus has a once great and prominent public character been politically extinguished. With the rarest talents, powerful eloquence, and every advantage of birth, wealth, and position, it is impossible to consider Lord Stanley's political career as other than unsuccessful: "the stamp of one defect" may often be fatal; and he always laboured under an inability to act cordially in concert with his colleagues. He forsook the Ministry of Earl Grey, and, in the long ten years' Opposition to that party was in all his glory as a partisan; but, again in office, the old discontent with his position reappeared, and, after a period of visible estrangement, and zeal decayed, he now abandons the Government of Sir Robert Peel, which is all the better for his loss. Another dissident from the policy of the Premier was the late Lord Wharnclyffe: he is removed by death at a most critical juncture—the mental excitement attending it having, in all probability, hastened his decease.

Mr. Gladstone resumes office, to the great satisfaction of all who lamented that his fine abilities should be lost to the public service. He succeeds to the Colonial Department resigned by Lord Stanley, and will be a direct accession of strength both in council and debate. Thus improved and fortified both by what it loses and what it gains, the "re-formed" Government is decidedly in the ascendant. The funds rise; there is a general feeling amounting almost to satisfaction that Sir Robert Peel is back again, founded on an impression not yet demonstrated to be causeless, that he is the only man uniting the many qualities necessary to keep together a firm Government. It is believed that, though he will not undertake to do so much as his opponents, what he does undertake he will carry; and, on the other hand, the landed interest sees right well, that, though he may lessen the present degree of their protection, yet by him alone can they expect to retain any protection at all, or make terms in case even he finds it impossible to preserve the system. The railway world is relieved from the fear of an immediate dissolution, and sees a prospect of bills progressing, and the friends of peace find some satisfaction in an escape from a Palmerston when a question like that of Oregon, and a President's Message like that of Polk, remain to be considered and settled, if possible, pacifically. From each and all these causes, the re-establishment of the Cabinet of Sir R. Peel is felt as a relief from a good deal of political uneasiness and anxiety. The Parliament stands summoned to meet "for the dispatch of business," on the 22nd of January, an anticipation of the usual period which indicates some important matters of debate; and, now that all seems fixed as to the persons, and arranged as to the time of action, the question rises—what will be done?

The Corn Laws will undergo a modification, but their repeal we do not believe would be proposed by the present Ministers, or carried, if proposed, in the present Parliament. Even the modification contemplated will, it is rumoured, be accompanied by some scheme of compensation to the landed interest, in order to break the fall from a system under which vast and complicated engagements and relations have grown up, capital embarked, and responsibilities incurred, to another state of things, in which the

produce of the land will be left to find its natural level in the market, its price unassisted by the present amount of duty on foreign food. In fact, the great, and almost overwhelming difficulty of the question, will now have to be encountered. It is not by argument alone that the question can be settled. Peel has himself acknowledged, that the strength of argument is on the side of Free-trade, and Graham asserts that its principle is only that of "common sense." The correctness of the theory is granted, but the pinch of the case is when we come to deal with actualities. It is, indeed, the Slavery question over again. No one will dispute but that slavery was in principle more immoral, and a greater violation of the laws of God and the first rights of man, than any regulation affecting trade and commerce. But the English Government and Legislature, at a time when abstract rights and pure political morality were little known and less practised, sanctioned the whole system, and in a manner, entered into engagements with men to protect and uphold it, and all the interests involved in it. When the enormity became too glaring an exception to the whole spirit and working of the British Constitution, abolition was insisted upon; yet even in such a case as that, the system could not be abolished without compensating those who had property embarked under it, on the faith of English Laws. The people paid dearly for the injustice and wrong done by their ancestors, and the return to a free and natural state of things had to be purchased "with a great sum." Granting that the Corn-laws are an error and an injustice,—are all they have been described to be—if "vested interests" can be distinctly proved under them, and traced to them alone—the penalty of wrong-doing, through their representatives, again falls upon the people. That the sins of the fathers are visited upon the children, is one of those texts whose perfect truth has often been illustrated by nations as well as individuals: thirty years ago we established a system that experience condemns—we are seeking to abolish it, and find we must "buy out" the holders of the privilege we bestow. The word "compensation" is whispered about, and, considering that it is never linked with less than a formidable array of millions, it may well be heard with apprehension.

But full compensation should only be given for full abolition: if any remnant of protection is preserved, a compromise may still be made, but it should be of a different kind. A money "compensation," adds millions to the National Debt, the burden of which remains heavy upon all future generations, and if the people get relief in one shape they would feel an oppression in another; the burden would be only shifted, there would be no absolute release from the load. The opposition to the plan would be so strong and so universal, that the success of such a proposition is perfectly hopeless. Some other plan must be thought of, and far better it would be to make time do the work of money, and spread the work of abolition, if total abolition it must be, over a series of years. The duty might start from its present rate, and decrease year by year till it remained at a small fixed amount, or vanished to one so small as to make no addition to price, and merely kept on for the purpose of registering the quantities imported. Between this time and the practical extinction, the landed interest would have fair notice, and time to adapt itself to the change; the people would secure a sufficient importation, and the trade would be certain, as the amount of duty, being fixed, expences and profits might be calculated—a very difficult process at present. On the other hand, some taxes, of which the land pays the greatest part, for purposes advantageous to the whole community, might with fairness be thrown on the general fund; the county rate, which defrays a great portion of the expense of our criminal proceedings, might be made a national expenditure; the efficacy of the Law is a matter of national concern. The land has to keep up much of the roadway of the kingdom; the land does it exclusively, for large tracts of road are without tolls. The development of railroads tends to induce a neglect of the old roads, which are still very important; superintendence will be wanted, and here again the State might step in with money and power for a national benefit. The land would be relieved of two burdens of which they have much reason to complain; let that relief stand as part of the "compensation." One more suggestion may be made for the benefit of the landed interest, which,



SIR ROBERT PEEL'S RESIDENCE, WHITEHALL GARDENS.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)

as it is the abolition of a tax, will be acceptable to all : with a surplus revenue of two millions, might not the Malt-tax be abolished? An Excise impost is far more mischievous than a tax levied as a Custom duty. Great would be the relief if the maltster and the brewer were left unshackled ; the benefit to them would re-act on the farmer with especial advantage, and at the same time produce an immense benefit to the whole of the labouring classes of the kingdom. In these measures, or measures like them, might a fair compensation be given ; but to burden the nation for the purpose of buying out the interest of the land in the Corn-laws, would excite and perpetuate the worst kind of animosity between class and class, and would remain a cause of irritation for ever. We do not believe any statesman would propose it ; but in the other direction something might be done, with no injustice to any, and with benefit to all. Whether such will be the nature of the alterations to be made by Sir Robert Peel, or whether he intends to make any, or none at all, remains to be seen ; if so, the amount and degree of the impending change will furnish to politicians ample matter for the favourite Christmas game of "Speculation."

THE SECOND MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

In great part of our impression on Saturday last, we announced the important fact that Lord John Russell had relinquished the hope of being able to form a Ministry, and that Sir Robert Peel had been recalled. We now supply from our contemporaries an account of the circumstances attendant on this Second Ministerial Crisis.

On Saturday morning last, Lord John Russell left his mansion in Chesham-place, at half-past nine o'clock, for Windsor Castle, to have an audience of the Queen, and to resign the command he had accepted of his Sovereign to form an Administration, the endeavours he had made to obtain the support of several political friends having rendered his attempts abortive. The fact that Lord John Russell intended to wait on her Majesty to inform her of his Lordship's proposed resignation was received by the Queen at Windsor Castle on Friday evening, a messenger having been despatched to the Castle shortly after the conference at his Lordship's residence, conveying to the Queen the result of their deliberations, and the disunion of opinion which prevailed. The noble Lord returned to town by the half-past one o'clock train from Slough, and on his arrival his Lordship communicated with the majority of his supporters who would have taken office under him, with an intimation to assemble at five o'clock.

By that hour the Earl of Auckland, Viscount Palmerston, Viscount Morpeth, the Earl of Clarendon, Sir John Cam Hobhouse, the Right Hon. Edward Ellice, the Right Hon. T. B. Macaulay, the Right Hon. Henry Labouchere, and Lord Montagu had congregated. The conference lasted nearly two hours.

Rumour relates that, beginning with Lord Grey, Lord John Russell offered him the Colonial office. He accepted, but had the curiosity to ask who was to have the Foreign-office? The answer was, Lord Palmerston—an intimation which had the immediate effect of neutralizing Lord Grey's love of place and power, patriotic and disinterested as it undoubtedly was. He most strongly objected to the appointment, and, for his own part, positively refused to serve with Lord Palmerston as Foreign Minister. Lord Grey, in withdrawing from the Cabinet under these circumstances, only followed the example of the Parisian capitalists, who have been withdrawing their money from the funds with more or less haste, exactly as there was reason to expect that Lord Palmerston was to be the channel and negotiator of international amity. However, be Lord Grey and the Bourne right or wrong, so it was, he would not come to. It was in vain that Lord John represented the utter impossibility of passing such a man by ; possibility or impossibility, Lord Grey was inexorable, and took his ground on the absolute incompatibility of himself and Lord Palmerston sitting at the same council table. The whole of Friday evening is said to have been spent in fruitless endeavours to move the rock. As Lord John Russell considered that he could not dispense with either of the Lordships, or at least could not afford to leave them at liberty to follow their own devices in the approaching struggle, he resolved again, for the last time, to return his commission into her Majesty's hands.

The Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel, late on Friday evening, appears to have received, by the arrival of one of the Royal messengers, her Majesty's commands to attend at the Castle in the afternoon of Saturday, to have an audience. The Right Hon. Baronet left his mansion in Whitehall-gardens at half-past one on Saturday morning, to proceed by the two o'clock train from the Great Western Railway Station at Paddington to Slough, and thence post to Windsor Castle.

Her Majesty was engaged nearly three hours with the Right Hon. Baronet, who then consented again to take upon himself the responsible duties of office.

The *Chronicle* gives a different version of the course of affairs. Our contemporary says:—"On Friday night, we believe, Lord John Russell communicated to her Majesty that, in consequence of a difficulty which had unexpectedly arisen, he must resign the commission with which she had honoured him to form an Administration, and on Saturday his Lordship waited on her Majesty for this purpose. The difficulty referred to, we feel it right to say, did not arise from any difference of opinion upon the great question which has produced the present Ministerial Crisis. Upon that question there was on Friday, and continues to be still, the most complete agreement between Lord John Russell and the friends with whom he had been in consultation during the week. Nor is there any truth in the statement made by some of our contemporaries, that there was any difference of opinion as to the individuals who were to have composed the future Cabinet."

Lord John Russell, on Sunday, left town, for the Grove Park, near Watford, Herts, on a visit to the Earl and Countess of Clarendon, the noble Earl having arrived at his seat on Saturday night from town. Lord John, on Monday morning, left for Minto House, near Hawick, on a visit to the Earl and Countess of Minto. Lady John Russell has arrived at Minto House, from the seat of Mr. Rutherford, M.P., near Edinburgh.

The following was, we believe, the intended allocation of places in the Ministry which the sudden resistance of Lord Grey to the appointment of Lord Palmerston as Minister for Foreign Affairs brought to so premature a close:—

First Lord of the Treasury, Lord John Russell.
Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Lord Palmerston.
Secretary of State for the Home Department, Sir G. Grey.
Secretary of State for the Colonies, Lord Grey.
Lord Chancellor, Lord Cottenham.
Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Lord Besborough.
Secretary for Ireland, Mr. Labouchere.
President of the Board of Control, Sir J. C. Hobhouse.
First Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Auckland.
First Commissioner of the Woods and Forests, Lord Morpeth.
President of the Board of Trade, Lord Clarendon.
Lord Privy Seal, Lord Minto.

The Vice Presidency of the Board of Trade was tendered to Mr. Cobden. The Earl of Ellenborough arrived in town on Wednesday afternoon from Gloucestershire, and immediately proceeded to the residence of Sir Robert Peel. The noble Earl remained upwards of an hour with the right hon. Baronet.

The Earl of St. Germans has arrived in town from his seat, Port Eliot, Cornwall.

The Earl of Dalhousie visited Sir Robert Peel on Wednesday. Sir Robert Peel left his residence in Whitehall-gardens on Wednesday afternoon for his seat, Drayton Manor, Staffordshire. Before his departure, the Earl of Aberdeen had an interview with the right hon. Baronet.

The following appeared in our latest edition last week:—
The news of the Return to Office of Sir Robert Peel has created a great sensation throughout the metropolis this (Saturday) evening; and, although several versions of the causes which have led to this Second Ministerial Crisis are in circulation at the Clubs, we forbear to publish mere conjectures.

Our inquiries in official quarters enable us to confirm the statement given in the first page, that Sir Robert Peel has been again summoned to Windsor. The right hon. Baronet had a long conference with her Majesty, and, on his return to town in the evening, a Cabinet Council was immediately summoned. A letter was also despatched by Sir Robert Peel to the Lord Chancellor, who soon afterwards went to the right hon. Baronet's residence at Whitehall. From thence Sir Robert Peel and the Lord Chancellor proceeded to Downing-street.

The Cabinet Council was summoned for nine o'clock, and soon after that hour Sir James Graham and several other members of the Council arrived. The Duke of Wellington joined his colleagues about half an hour afterwards. The Cabinet Council remained in deliberation a very considerable time.

It would be idle for us to affect to be acquainted with the result. It cannot, of course, yet be known whether Sir Robert Peel has again undertaken to carry on the Government, but we pledge ourselves for the accuracy of our account of the progress of this important movement so far as it has proceeded. We have reason to believe that the Duke of Wellington has had an interview with her Majesty, as well as Sir Robert Peel, and, from the presence of his Grace at the Council, our readers can form a judgment as to how far his Grace may now be considered to concur in the views of the right hon. Baronet. It will be recollected that the noble Duke was not present at the last Cabinet Council, but his attendance upon the present occasion may, perhaps, be considered as indicative of his adherence now to the views of Sir Robert Peel.

Of course, however, we do not vouch for the accuracy of this information; but the above statements having been supplied to us from an unexception-

able source, we have thought it right to put our readers in possession of every incident likely to elucidate the mystery connected with the Resignation of Sir Robert Peel, as the public feel such anxiety upon the subject. Up to the present moment, the real cause of it is unknown.

According to our latest information, the arrangements for the reconstruction of Sir Robert Peel's Cabinet are settled. The chief difference is the retirement of Lord Stanley.

Lord Stanley, we regret to learn, feels himself compelled to withdraw from her Majesty's service. His lordship acted throughout the late painful and protracted discussions with perfect fairness and openness.

All the other colleagues of Sir Robert Peel will remain in office. They are influenced, no doubt, by the same motives by which Sir Robert Peel was influenced, when he informed her Majesty, on Saturday last, that he required no time for consultation or deliberation ; that on the instant he should resume the functions and responsibilities of Prime Minister.

The decision of the Duke of Wellington and of those of his colleagues who had, in the first instance, dissented from the views of Sir Robert Peel, was not to leave him to pursue his arduous and patriotic course alone, but to share the burthen with him, and give him all the aid which their high station, their known ability, and disinterested integrity so well enabled them to afford. The position of Lord Stanley was peculiar; and, acting on strong conviction and on his sense of public duty, he resolved on retiring.

Sir Robert Peel therefore resumes his course. The changes in the constitution of the Ministry which its recent return to power will occasion, will not be of any very great importance. Mr. Gladstone has succeeded Lord Stanley in the Colonial-office, Lord Dalhousie will be called to occupy a seat in the Cabinet, Lord St. Germans will be appointed Postmaster-General, also, probably, with a seat in the Cabinet, and, for the present at least, there is little probability of further change. The health of the Lord Chancellor will, perhaps, induce him to avoid the fatigues of his laborious office during another session ; but his Lordship will continue until then to afford his colleagues his valuable assistance in their deliberations.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

The news of the resumption of office by Sir Robert Peel, which reached Paris on Monday, created an immense sensation, and was, generally speaking, received with congratulations. It led to great excitement on 'Change, and prices improved considerably.

The adjudications of the concessions of the Creil and St. Quentin Railways took place at the office of the Minister of Public Works on Saturday afternoon. The Rothschild, Hottinguer, Lafitte and Company offered to take it for 25 years 11 months ; Carrette and Minguet for 38 to 40 years ; Colbert and Co., for 36 years ; Ardouin for 43 years. The Cordier Company did not bid.

On the same day, the adjudication of the concession of the Paris and Lyons Railroad was postponed *sine die*; the only company bidding for it (Lafitte, Ganneron, Barillon and Baudran) having offered to take it but for 42½ years, and the Government minimum being 4½ years.

The singular termination of the adjudication was much commented upon in all the journals.

It appears subsequently, however, that at a Council of Ministers held on Saturday night, it was agreed that the Minister of Public Works should accept the proposition of M. Lafitte, on the part of the coalesced companies, to take the Paris and Lyons line on the terms named as the maximum in the Minister's sealed packet, namely, at 41 years 90 days.

In pursuance of this determination, the *Moniteur* publishes a report of the Minister of Public Works, M. Dumon, respecting the adjudication of the Paris and Lyons Railroad.

This report is followed by a Royal Ordinance, dated the same day, declaring that the offer made by General Count Baudrand, Charles Lafitte, Hippolyte Ganneron, and William Barillon, for the grant of the Paris and Lyons Railroad, was accepted, and that the company they represent should hold it for 41 years and 90 days.

A dreadful murder was committed at Neuilly, near Paris, a few days ago, by a young man named Francois Querelles, aged twenty-five. The motive was jealousy at the favour shown by his employer to another workman. M. Rouxel, a builder, had particularly distinguished amongst his workmen two young men, Querelles and another, named Louis Rollet. The former was foreman, and the latter but a simple workman. They lived together in the same house, Rue du Chateau, 32. In the course of last month, M. Rouxel entrusted a piece of work to Rollet alone, without placing him, as usual, under the orders of Querelles. The latter became exceedingly jealous at this proceeding, and some high words, and even blows, passed between him and Rollet. On Wednesday, Querelles proceeded to Paris, and purchased a pair of pistols and some powder and ball, and returned home before Rollet came in from work. The latter went at once to his room, which was below that of Querelles. Next morning neither of them appeared, and the neighbours becoming uneasy, entered Rollet's room, the key being in the door, and found him lying dead on the floor, his skull fractured, and a large club lying near him covered with blood, brains, and hair. In Querelles's room were found the pistols which he had bought the preceding day. He has not since been heard of, and the report runs that he has committed suicide by throwing himself into the Seine. The subsequent investigations have complicated this murder in an extraordinary manner. When the authorities discovered the dead body of Rollet, they placed a gendarme in the house to seize on Francois Querelles, should he happen to return. The gendarme, named Gilbert, finding himself alone in the house, thought he might as well examine if he could not discover some indication of the crime. He descended at last to the cellar, where he thought the earth looked as if it had been recently disturbed in one of the corners. He got a pickaxe and took up the surface, and at about a foot below it he found the dead body of a young girl, who was known to have been loved by both Rollet and Querelles, and for whose affections they were rivals. She had been missing for some days, and her disappearance had excited suspicions. The question now is, who could have been the author of this crime?

SPAIN.

The Spanish Cortes were opened on the 15th inst., with a speech from the Queen, in which her Majesty, after alluding to the state of the relations with foreign powers, said, "I desire to protect, by all means, our navigation and commerce. By giving life and animation to agriculture and industry, a new stimulus will be given to the progress of our navy, which will insure its recovery from the state of prostration into which it had fallen, and which will not less confer benefit and advantage upon our foreign possessions, so worthy of all our interest, for the fidelity they have always displayed, and under all circumstances." Her Majesty then alluded to the defeat of treasonable attempts, and the fidelity of the army, the subordination and discipline of which might serve as a model for the world; and adverted to important reforms which had been effected. Her Majesty in conclusion made these announcements:—

"My Government proposes also to submit to you measures calculated to increase the public wealth and to strengthen the credit to the nation.

"My Government will also present to you a project of law with the important object of endowing, in a permanent and solid manner, public worship and the clergy.

"During the last session you introduced into the constitution the reforms indispensable for placing in harmony the prerogatives of the Crown and the rights of the nation. You authorised my Government to promulgate those organic laws, by means of which the political machine received freedom of action and movement. You decreed, in fine, a new plan of finance, calculated to put an end to the disorder which consumed the resources of the State. At present it devolves on you to examine the results of your former resolutions, and to introduce such further improvements and reforms as shall appear to you called for and necessary—a task which, though less brilliant, is not the less useful and glorious. Your zeal and perseverance will be necessary to aid my Government in the laudable task of regulating the finances and administration of the State, which necessarily felt the effects of previous great and fatal disorder."

THE UNITED STATES.—THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The ship *Sea* arrived at Liverpool on Monday afternoon, with New York papers to the 4th inst., and also brought the President's Message, which was delivered to Congress on the 2d inst. This document, as usual, is a very long one, but the portion of it which chiefly interests this country, is that relating to the Oregon Territory. The tone adopted upon this important subject is, we regret to say, a bellicose one. Mr. Polk commences the Message by referring to the affairs of Mexico and Texas, and asks the Congress to adopt the necessary measures for carrying out the annexation. He then comes to the Oregon question, and after tracing the various negotiations upon the subject, says:—

"The civilised world will see in these proceedings a spirit of liberal concession on the part of the United States, and this Government will be relieved from all responsibility which may follow the failure to settle the controversy."

"All attempts at compromise having failed, it becomes the duty of Congress to consider what measures it may be proper to adopt for the security and protection of our citizens now inhabiting, or who may hereafter inhabit Oregon, and for the maintenance of our just title to that territory. In adopting measures for this purpose, care should be taken that nothing be done to violate the stipulations of the convention of 1827, which is still in force. The faith of treaties, in their letter and spirit, has ever been, and I trust, will ever be, scrupulously observed by the United States. Under that convention a year's notice is required to be given by either party to the other, before the joint occupancy shall terminate, and before either can rightfully assert or exercise exclusive jurisdiction over any portion of the territory. This notice it would, in my judgment, be proper to give; and I recommend that provision be made by law for giving it accordingly, and terminating, in this manner, the convention of the 6th of August, 1827."

After some further remarks, the President proceeds:—
"The recommendations which I have made as to the best manner of securing our rights in Oregon are submitted to Congress with great deference. Should they, in their wisdom, devise any other mode better calculated to accomplish the same object, it shall meet with my hearty concurrence."

"At the end of the year's notice, should Congress think it proper to make

provision for giving that notice, we shall have reached a period when the national rights of Oregon must either be abandoned or firmly maintained. That they cannot be abandoned without a sacrifice of both national honour and interest is too clear to admit of doubt."

Mr. Polk concludes his comments upon the Oregon question in these terms:—

"Near a quarter of a century ago, the principle was distinctly announced to the world, in the annual Message of one of my predecessors, that 'the American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintained, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonisation by any European power.' This principle will apply with greatly increased force, should any European power attempt to establish any new colony in North America. In the existing circumstances of the world, the present is deemed a proper occasion to reiterate and re-affirm the principle affirmed by Mr. Monroe, and to state my cordial concurrence in its wisdom and sound policy. The re-assertion of this principle, especially in reference to North America, is at this day but the promulgation of a policy which no European power should cherish the disposition to resist. Existing rights of every European nation should be respected; but it is due alike to our safety and our interests, that the efficient protection of our laws should be extended over our whole territorial limits, and that it should be distinctly announced to the world as our settled policy, that no future European colony or dominion shall, with our consent, be planted or established on any part of the North American continent."

Mr. Polk gives this account of the financial condition of the United States:—

"The Secretary of the Treasury, in his annual report to Congress, will communicate a full statement of the condition of our finances. The imports for the fiscal year ending on the 30th of June last, were of the value of 117,254,564 dollars, of which the amount exported was 15,346,830 dollars, leaving a balance of 101,907,734 dollars for domestic consumption. The exports for the same year were of the value of 114,646,606 dollars; of which the amount of domestic articles was 99,299,776 dollars. The receipts into the Treasury during the same year were 99,769,133 dollars and 56 cents; of which were derived from the customs 27,528,112 dollars and 70 cents; from sales of public lands, 2,770,022 dollars and 30 cents; and from incidental and miscellaneous sources, 163,998 dollars and 56 cents. The expenditures for the same period were 29,968,206 dollars and 98 cents; of which 8,588,157 dollars and 62 cents were applied to the payment of the public debt. The balance in the Treasury on the 1st of July last, was 7,658,306 dollars and 22 cents. The amount of the public debt remaining unpaid on the 1st of October last, was 17,075,445 dollars and 52 cents. Further payments of the public debt would have been made in anticipation of the period of its reimbursement under the authority conferred upon the Secretary of the Treasury by the acts of July 21st, 1841, and of April 15th, 1842, and of March 3rd, 1843, had not the unsettled state of our relations with Mexico menaced hostile collision with that power. In view of such a contingency, it was deemed prudent to retain in the Treasury an amount unusually large for ordinary purposes. A few years ago our whole national debt growing out of the revolution and the war of 1812 with Great Britain was extinguished, and we presented to the world the rare and noble spectacle of a great and growing people who had fully discharged every obligation. Since that time the existing debt has been contracted, and, small as it is, in comparison with the similar burthens of most other nations, it should be extinguished at the earliest practicable period. Should the state of the country permit, and especially if our foreign relations interpose no obstacle, it is contemplated to apply all the moneys in the Treasury, as they accrue, beyond what is required for the appropriations by Congress, to its liquidation. I cherish the hope of soon being able to congratulate the country on its recovering once more the lofty position which it so recently occupied. Our country, which exhibits to the world the benefits of self-government, in developing all the resources of national prosperity, owes to mankind the permanent example of a nation free from the blighting influence of a public debt."

In the course of the Message, the President invites the attention of Congress to the importance of making suitable modifications and reductions of the rate of duty imposed by the present tariff laws.

INDIA AND CHINA.

ARRIVAL OF THE HALF-MONTHLY MAIL.

The Bombay Mail of the 15th of November has arrived.

The chief fact of interest mentioned in the papers is the departure of the Governor-General from Agra, on the 29th of October, and his quick movements, whereby he was to arrive at Delhi on the 15th of November—that is, many days prior to the time when he was expected here. The affairs in the Punjab have not lost their interest, although no late atrocity is recorded. The situation is most extraordinary; the troops have murdered all the Prime Ministers or Wuzerees, as well as all the Kings that do not act as they please. The boy King, Dhuleep, is represented as being no great favourite with them. His mother, who is said to be at once a "Messalina" and a "Faustina," has contrived to keep the soldiers at bay since the death of her brother, Jowahir Singh, although she has had no Prime Minister, for Gholab Singh, whom the soldiers wished to promote, for his wealth, to that most dangerous post, and then to plunder and to butcher him, as they did his brother and his nephew, has contrived to gain his mountain fortress of Jamoo, where he has formally refused their invitation. Tej Singh, the late Governor of Peshawar, has also declined the offer.

The British army remains collected on the frontiers of the Punjab, and will speedily be ready to march on Lahore, if necessary. There is nothing positive known of the fate of Peshora Singh, who was, as it now appears, aided in his late attempt to hold Attock by Dhost Mahomed and the Afghans, who intended, if Peshora was successful, to seize Peshawar.

Prince Waldemar of Prussia, who was at Umballa on the 4th of November, was about to proceed to Loodiana and Ferozepore; but his return to the former place was expected, as it is said that the invasion of the Punjab will be begun thence.

From Scinde we learn that all is tranquil there. Sir Charles Napier was preparing to move from Kurachee to Hyderabad on a tour, as it was said, into the province of Cutch-Bhooj; but there were not wanting speculators who imagine, if an invasion of the Punjab be required, that he will lead the vanguard.

At Indore some confusion has arisen in consequence of a conspiracy to assassinate the Prime Minister; but the plot was discovered and frustrated, and the conspirators punished.

In other parts of India tranquillity prevails, although apprehensions are general of a great scarcity of grain and of water in various districts, during the next six months, in consequence of the deficiency of the late monsoon.

From Burmah the news of the dethronement of Tharawaddie has been confirmed. He had become mad, and had been guilty of the most wanton acts of cruelty; he was therefore deposed, as his brother had been previously, and a regent appointed in the person of his youngest son, Shoadoongementha, under the guardianship of Mekkarameg and Kyeewoongyee. Mekkarameg, the uncle of the regent, is said to be a man of talents, and is a member of the Asiatic Society. The removal from power of Tharawaddie, in whose family madness is said to be hereditary, is hailed with satisfaction by the Burmese.

The letters from Bombay allude to the horrible conduct of a Manila seacunny, who, infuriated by drink and jealousy, ran a muck through a populous part of the town of Bombay, and killed five persons and wounded seventeen with his knife; he was knocked down at last and secured.

From China no intelligence had reached Bombay subsequent to the 30th of September.

CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &c.

CAMBRIDGE.

Dec. 22.

TRINITY COLLEGE.—FRIZEMEN, 1845.

ENGLISH DECLAMATIONS.—Subject of the Oration delivered in Hall, "On the development of the Forms of Poetry considered as Dependent on the Social Progress of a Nation."—1. Hallam; 2. Lindsay; 3. Norris.

LATIN DECLAMATIONS.—Subject of Latin Oration, "Goethil Laudatio."—1. Lushington; 2. Selwyn.

LATIN VERSE.—Lyrics: "Rhenus Fluvius."—Vansittart. Hexameters: No prize awarded. Elegiacs: "Veturia Coriolanum Exorat."—Vansittart.

ENGLISH ESSAY.—During the former half of the seventeenth century, what causes were at work to change the national character and customs of the English, and what permanent effects did they produce?—Lindsay.

READING PRIZES.—1. Selwyn; 2. Norris.

ESSAY (on the Conduct and Character of King William): Ds. Bristed.

THE WRANGHAM PRIZE.—*Atēv apotevew*. Ds. Bristed.

The following appointments have taken place:—The Rev. David Carver, of Caius College, to the curacy of Wells-next-the-Sea, Norfolk. The Rev. Alexander Grant Hildyard, M.A., of Pembroke College, to be one of the Hon. Earl Nelson's domestic chaplains.

SECESSIONS.—Mr. Hutchinson, of Trinity College, Cambridge, was received into the Roman Catholic Church at Birmingham, on Sunday last. Above thirty of the late parishioners of the Rev. — Marshall, of Swallow-cliff, Wilts, have, together with their pastor, conformed to the Church of Rome. Mr. Oakley, late Fellow of Balliol College, has entered as a student in Theology at St. Edmund's College, Hertfordshire, under Dr. Griffiths, Vicar Apostolic of the London District. The Rev. W. Marshall, of the diocese of York, who has been lately received into the Church of Rome, was not curate to Archdeacon Wilberforce at the time of his reception, though he was previously curate to the venerable Archdeacon.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR.—Lord Lyndhurst sat on Saturday in Lincoln's Inn Hall for the first time since his late illness, and gave no less than twelve judgments. The hall was very much crowded.

THE LATE LORD WHARNCIFFE.—On Sunday morning Dr. Meriman and the physicians, who were called in to consult on the serious illness of this respected nobleman, assembled at the family mansion in Curzon street, as well as Sir Benjamin Brodie, when there was a *post mortem* examination of the deceased, and it was ascertained that death was caused by an effusion on the brain.

THE COURT AND HAUT TON.

COURT AND PRIVY COUNCIL.—MEETING OF PARLIAMENT IN JANUARY.

The Queen held a Court and Privy Council on Tuesday afternoon at Windsor Castle. There were present his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Duke of Wellington, the Duke of Buccleuch, Sir Robert Peel, the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Stanley, Mr. William Ewart Gladstone, Sir James Graham, Mr. Henry Goulburn, the Earl of Haddington, Lord Granville Somerset, the Earl of Lincoln, Sir Sidney Herbert, the Earl of Dalhousie, the Earl of Liverpool, and the Earl of Jersey. At the Council it was determined that Parliament should be prorogued from the 30th inst. to the 22nd of January, then to meet for the despatch of business.

Lord Stanley had an audience of the Queen, and delivered to her Majesty his seals of office as one of her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State. The Queen having been pleased to appoint the Right Hon. William Ewart Gladstone to be one of her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State (for War and the Colonies), he was, by command of the Queen, sworn one of her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

At the Court Mr. Sheriff Chaplin and Mr. Sheriff Laurie, the Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, accompanied by the City Remembrancer, were presented to the Queen at an audience by Sir James Graham, to receive her Majesty's commands relative to the Address of the Corporation of the City of London on the subject of the Corn-laws. Her Majesty was graciously pleased to appoint Saturday, the 3rd of January next, at Windsor Castle, for the reception of the Address. The Sheriffs appeared in State at the Court.

After the Court the Duke of Wellington left in his travelling carriage for Strathfieldsaye.

Sir Robert Peel remained at the Castle on a visit to her Majesty.

WINDSOR, THURSDAY EVENING.—(From our own Correspondent.)—Her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert promenaded this morning in the Home Park, visiting the Queen's kennel and the Royal aviary in their return to the Castle. The Prince of Wales and the Princesses Royal and Alice were taken for their usual airings this morning in the private grounds. Divine service was performed this morning in the Queen's private chapel, before her Majesty and the Prince Consort and the members of the Royal household, by the Hon. and Rev. C. L. Courtenay. A sermon was afterwards preached by the Queen's domestic chaplain. Her Majesty and Prince Albert took an airing this afternoon. The Royal dinner circle this evening included her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, the Baroness de Spaeth, the Countess Dysart, Lady Fanny Howard, the Hon. Miss Devereux, the Dowager Lady Lytton, the Hon. Miss Napier, the Earl of Warwick, Mr. Ormsby Gore, Major General Wemyss, Major General Sir Edward Bowater, Colonel Bowles, &c. Her Majesty's private band was in attendance after dinner, and performed before her Majesty and the Court in the Red Drawing Room. A splendid baron of beef, weighing upwards of 300lbs., was served up at the Royal dinner table this evening. The Court will remain at the Castle until within a day or two of the Meeting of Parliament, when it will take its departure for Buckingham Palace.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

ELECTION OF COMMON COUNCILMEN.—St. Thomas's Day having fallen on a Sunday, the annual wardmotes for the election of Common Councilmen were postponed until Monday last. In many of the wards the old members were returned without opposition, and in few of them was there any very animated contests arising out of political partizanship. These elections, however, have excited little interest, of late years, beyond their several localities.

CHRISTMAS PROVISIONS.—The various metropolitan markets, during the week, have exhibited a most extraordinary and abundant supply of all descriptions of provisions, which have been imported from the country for the entertainment of those who have the means to enjoy themselves at this season of festivity. At no previous Christmas have Leadenhall and Newgate markets presented so fine a show of poultry, the fowls in general being in the best possible condition. Many of the trains had with them between five hundred and six hundred parcels; and one, the Norfolk train, which came in early on Tuesday morning, had eight hundred parcels. Several wholesale dealers have forwarded between two and three thousand geese, the supply being required in consequence of the numerous geese clubs in the metropolis, in some of which there are above five hundred members. Turkeys fetched from 3s. to 25s. each; geese, from 3s. 6d. to 12s. each; fowls, from 2s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. per pair; porkers, from 6s. to 18s. each; hares, from 2s. 6d. to 5s. each.

COUNTRY NEWS.

OPENING OF THE SHEFFIELD AND MANCHESTER RAILWAY.

Monday was a great day for the towns of Sheffield and Manchester, the railways between the two points being opened throughout. The great obstacle—the tunnel which pierces the chain of hills between Lancashire and Yorkshire—was on that day formally opened. It cost £200,000, and has taken nearly six years in execution.

The tunnel, which may be regarded as one of the greatest specimens of engineering skill, is 5300 yards, or three miles and twenty yards in length, being exactly midway between the termini of the line. It is 15 feet wide, and 18 feet 10 inches high. It is adapted only for a single line of rails, and it will be worked by an engine which will be entirely confined to taking trains through each way, so that no collision can by possibility take place. In addition to the security thereby induced, there will be an electric telegraph, which will convey signals through the tunnel in an almost incredibly short space of time. The level of the rails at the eastern end of the tunnel is nearly 1000 feet above the level of the sea at low water. The depth of the lowest of the five shafts is 669 feet.

A train of about twenty carriages left the Sheffield station at ten o'clock in the morning, drawn by two new engines, accompanied by the Chairman, Mr. J. Parker, M.P. for Sheffield, the other Directors and their friends. Precisely at five minutes past ten the train was put into motion, and got under rapid way. The weather was extremely unpropitious, in consequence of a tremendous fall of snow. The train reached Dunford bridge in three quarters of an hour, where it remained twenty minutes for water. It then proceeded through the tunnel, at a steady pace. It was 10½ minutes in passing through this great subterranean bore; and, on emerging into the "regions of light," at Woodhead, the passengers gave three hearty cheers, making the mountains ring. It speedily passed over the wonderful viaduct at Dinting, and arrived at Manchester at a quarter past twelve, the band playing "See, the Conquering Hero Comes!" The party were met here by the Manchester shareholders, who proceeded to Sheffield, and dined with their Sheffield friends. The line was opened to the public on Tuesday. General Pasley, the Government Inspector, left Sheffield at ten o'clock on Saturday, and, after passing over the line, gave the usual certificate of safety and consolidation.

This line is intended to form part of the Huddersfield and Manchester line, which will constitute the shortest and most direct communication between Manchester and Leeds.

ELECTION PROSPECTS.—The provincial papers represent the Parliamentary boroughs to have been on the *qui vive* at the prospect of a dissolution of Parliament, supposed to be necessarily consequent on the advent of a Whig-Radical Administration. The recall of Sir Robert Peel, however, will put a stop to this activity; therefore it is unnecessary to notice the various movements which the anticipated elections occasioned. There must be a vacancy for the West Riding of Yorkshire, as the Hon. John Stuart Wortley will be called to the House of Peers, and it seems to be the impression that Lord Morpeth will be returned.

MEETING OF THE LEAGUE AT MANCHESTER.—On Tuesday there was a very numerous meeting of the League at Manchester, Mr. R. H. Gregg in the chair. Mr. George Wilson read the accounts of the League, from which it appeared that they had a balance in hand of nearly £13,000. Mr. Alderman Neale moved the first resolution, to the effect that the meeting still reposed confidence in the League, and would continue their support of it. It was carried unanimously. Mr. Henry Ashworth, of Turton, moved the thanks of the meeting to the League, and that a subscription be entered into in aid of the great £250,000 fund, and the appointment of a committee to collect subscriptions. Very nearly £60,000 was subscribed. There were no less than twenty subscriptions of £1000. Mr. Cobden, on behalf of the Council, then addressed the meeting, and observed that two years ago, when they subscribed £14,000, they were designated "a great fact," and now that they had subscribed £59,165 0s. 9d., they might be called a greater fact. The amount subscribed that day was a greater sum than was ever subscribed for any one object. The meeting gave him great pleasure, because, from the first commencement of it not a word had been said about the changes of the Ministry that were going on every day. It would show every Minister what support he would receive from the country; and, on behalf of the meeting, he (Mr. Cobden) might say with perfect safety that Sir Robert Peel would have the support of the people of Lancashire, and of the whole of the Free-traders of the country, if he would but come out, and do his duty as a man and a Minister. He wished it to be understood that, as soon as the laws were repealed, the League would be dissolved, and every gentleman would be liberated from all liability to the League or its funds. He denied that they had any other object in view; and as soon as the Corn-laws were repealed the League would be at once dissolved.

COACH ACCIDENT AT BIRSTAL.—On Monday evening last, about six o'clock, the Leeds and Huddersfield coach was overturned in the neighbourhood of Birstal. Several of the passengers were seriously hurt. One passenger had a fracture of the ankle joint; a clergyman, from Lincolnshire, had a compound fracture of the leg; and a third gentleman, a fractured thigh.

APPRAV WITH POACHERS.—A collision between the Earl of Suffolk's gamekeepers and two notorious poachers, took place about two o'clock on Thursday morning (last week), in the preserves at Charlton, near Malmesbury. It appears that the head gamekeeper, George Hawes, and his assistant, Thomas Fields, had discovered a great many wires set in a field, adjoining the turnpike-road at Charlton. They watched them for some time, when two men came within thirty yards of them, but finding they were seen they made off. The keepers pursued the intruders, and Fields overtook them, when they made a furious attack on him, and beat him severely about the head and body with large sticks. When Hawes came up, Fields was on the ground, the poachers still beating him. One of them made a thrust at Hawes with a spear which they had previously taken from Fields, and wounded him in the shoulder. Both men were recognised by the keepers; they are Edgar Walker and Ambrose Davis, two notorious poachers of Brinkworth.

THE YARMOUTH MURDER.—Yarham, the man accused of murdering Mrs. Candler, at Yarmouth, was apprehended on Saturday last, at Blakeney, in Gloucestershire. The warrant for his apprehension was issued on the testimony of the woman Dirk, who stated that Yarham had confessed to her that he was concerned in the murder.

MURDER IN LIVERPOOL.—On Saturday morning last, a girl named Jane Swift, indicted a fatal wound upon a companion in misery, named Mc'Gill. It appears that between twelve and one o'clock in the morning, Swift and deceased were carousing with a number of sailors in a public house in Tally-street, a neighbourhood not of the highest repute in Liverpool. Some difference arose between them, Swift being very much excited, and declaring that she would take the life of the deceased before morning. After some little time, Swift was calmed down, but, on leaving the public-house, the quarrel was resumed, and the deceased, some parties say, struck Swift a blow, whilst others say she only gave her a push, in order to get her out of the way. This was, however, enough for Swift, who was already much exasperated, and she made a stab at the deceased, inflicting a most serious and dangerous wound on the side of the neck, near the collar-bone. The deceased staggered and fell down, but was immediately carried to a neighbouring house, where she died a short time afterwards. A surgeon was sent for, but arrived too late to render her any assistance. As soon as Swift had perpetrated the deed, she ran off, with the knife in her hand, and was pursued down Park-lane by several persons who were standing by. She called out to one of the women in pursuit that she would serve her as she had done the deceased, if she persisted in following her. Ultimately she outran her pursuers, was lost sight of, and succeeded in making her escape.

IRELAND.

O'CONNELL UPON THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.—At the meeting of the Repeal Association on Monday, Mr. O'Connell, after a brief allusion to the "Starvation Committee"—the name given by him to the committee appointed to inquire respecting the potatoes—made some remarks upon the present state of affairs, which are worth notice. He said they were in a strange state of puzzle. Sir Robert Peel had become Minister in the interval, and he believed he was correct in saying that there was no Minister at that moment. That was the state of England. It should likewise be remembered that they (the Irish) could have no confidence in him. Last week he was a Leaguer; this week he may be a protectionist; next week he may be for something modified; and he was so much attached to a sliding-scale, that he might get on a sliding-scale himself and slip through their fingers. (Laughter.) They were placed in a curious position. They had no Government, and no person could precisely tell why. They could not tell why the Whigs did not form an Administration; they could not tell why the Tories ceased to be a Government. All they knew was, that both Whigs and Tories had quarrelled among themselves, and that they agreed upon nothing but to differ. There was only one point on which they were perfectly unanimous, and that was to differ amongst themselves. What was all that to Ireland? What was the real question to consider? The present crisis was most beneficial to Ireland. It raised their expectations. It gave them the certainty of success if they were true to themselves and to their country. (Cheers.) What cared they for Whigs or Tories. Their cause was the cause of Ireland. They were on a majestic march to nationality, and the changes and the shiftings of Administrations only excited the throes and struggles of that species of political tyranny that would debase them, dividing and separating them from each other. Every man should be a Repealer. That day-week he concurred with Mr. Smith O'Brien, who called for an hurrah for Repeal, and no compromise. He repeated his words—he was in favour of Repeal, and no compromise—no postponement. (Loud and continued cheers.) Nothing should delay them in their career—nothing should drive them from the pursuit of their object. (Cheers.) He said that he would support Lord John Russell upon the Corn-laws, and that he would attend during the debate, and influence as many of the Irish Members as he could influence, to vote upon every division with Cobden and Bright. They knew that he had no great liking for Peel—he was well aware what kind of a honeyed trickster he was, but he was equally ready to support him upon the Corn law question, and he would vote for him upon every motion that had for its object to make bread plentiful and cheap. (Cheers.) While he said this, he would do Lord John Russell the justice to say that he had placed himself in a position—a very prominent position—of the highest honour. (Hear.) Whatever his conduct as a Whig might have been, it was impossible to look at his behaviour and mode of acting respecting the Corn-laws, without feeling a kind of veneration for his person, and concurrence in his opinions. He had behaved himself admirably. He went with him so far as he behaved himself well, and not one inch further. (Loud cheers.) He had, as it were, pledged himself to a fixed duty, and a total repeal of the Corn-laws. ("Hear, hear," and loud cheers.) He found that famine was increasing—that the distress of England, especially in the agricultural districts, was growing more alarming; and he knew that the amount of wages paid in the manufacturing localities would diminish. He further knew, that in Ireland they were approaching a famine, and the necessary consequence would be pestilence. (Hear, hear.) He did not let the taunt of inconsistency retard him from boldly and manfully abandoning his former opinion—(hear, hear)—and adopting that which would prove beneficial to the people. He was not justifying the conduct of the Whigs, nor was he speaking in their praise as a party; but he could not avoid speaking in terms of the highest commendation of their leader, who had vindicated the ancient fame of his family, from whom many martyrs to liberty, and the greatest friends to the constitutional freedom of the country, sprung. (Cheers.) He (Mr. O'Connell) was ready to support Peel in any good measure he proposed for Ireland—no matter what it was—whether to repeal the Corn Laws, or cheapen provisions to avert the threatening famine. (Hear, hear.) Now he would prefer Lord John Russell as Premier, and his party, to the Tories; because his belief was, that the first step they would take would be, immediately to provide food and employment for the Irish people. (Hear, hear.) It was said by some foolish publications that he would give up Repeal to feed the people: in fact, that he said so. Now, he said no such thing, for the alternative was not put to him, but if it was, he would, of course, have no hesitation in saying, "feed the people." (Cheers.) He would, if obliged to do one thing or the other, give up Repeal; but, as he said, such an alternative was not put to him, and the course he adopted, he believed, was the best support he could have afforded to Repeal. (Continued cries of hear and cheers.) He cared for neither Whigs nor Tories, and he would vote for any measure, no matter who brought it forward, if it was a good one; and he boldly challenged the Government, if Sir Robert Peel was in power, to produce such measures, and see if he would not aid him in carrying them. (Hear, and cheers.) The rent for the week was announced to be £218 18s. 2d.

ANTRIM ELECTION.—On Monday, Sir H. B. Seymour was elected for the county of Antrim, without opposition, in the room of Mr. Irving.

ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

EXTRAORDINARY CHARGE OF MURDER, IN ESSEX.—During the last two weeks some excitement has prevailed in the neighbourhood of Dagenham and the western portion of the county of Essex, in consequence of a rumour having been extensively circulated that a respectable tradesman, named Thomas Dunsdon, a potato salesman, residing at Chadwell Heath, had murdered his wife by cutting her throat. The wife died as long since as Oct. 30th, from a wound in her throat. A Coroner's inquest was held before C. C. Lewis, Esq., the county Coroner, and a verdict was returned that the deceased had committed the act whilst labouring under temporary insanity. A few days after the inquest was held, a report was spread by some of the witnesses who were examined before the Coroner, that the act was not done by the deceased, but that the husband had cut her throat, and that they were prevented from giving such evidence before the Coroner as would have fixed Dunsdon with the commission of the crime of murder. This report reaching the ears of the husband, he threatened to take legal proceedings against the originator of the scandal, a person named Banham. On the 10th of the present month an information was made before George Octavius Massier, Esq., one of the county magistrates, on the oaths of George Banham and Rachel Summons. The magistrate at once issued a summons against Dunsdon for his attendance before him the following day. After hearing the evidence of Banham and other witnesses, the accused was remanded to the Ilford sessions, bail being taken for his appearance. On Saturday the accused appeared before William Cotton, Esq., and a full bench of magistrates, at the Angel Inn, Ilford, when the whole of the case with regard to the prosecution was gone into. The evidence was very contradictory. A woman, who acted as servant to the accused, said that on the morning of the 20th October she heard a scream from the room, and on hastening there she met the prisoner on the stairs with a bloody razor in his hand; and on going into the room, his wife was lying on her back in the bed with her throat cut, and she died in a few minutes. Her evidence was confirmed by that of Mr. Banham, who deposed to having heard the prisoner express a wish that his wife was dead, and said that they had often quarrelled. Other witnesses said the accused expressed great sorrow at his wife's death, and the surgeon said she had been long ill of a nervous complaint, and that her mind had been so much affected that he had cautioned the attendants about her, as she was likely to commit suicide. The magistrates, who refused to hear evidence for the defence, committed the accused, but agreed to accept bail for his appearance at the next sessions.

FRAUDS UPON RAILWAY COMPANIES.—At the Central Criminal Court, on Monday, Edmund Thomas Yeakel, who pleaded guilty some sessions back to the forgery of the Parliamentary deed of a railway company, and upon whom judgment had been respite, was brought up to receive the sentence of

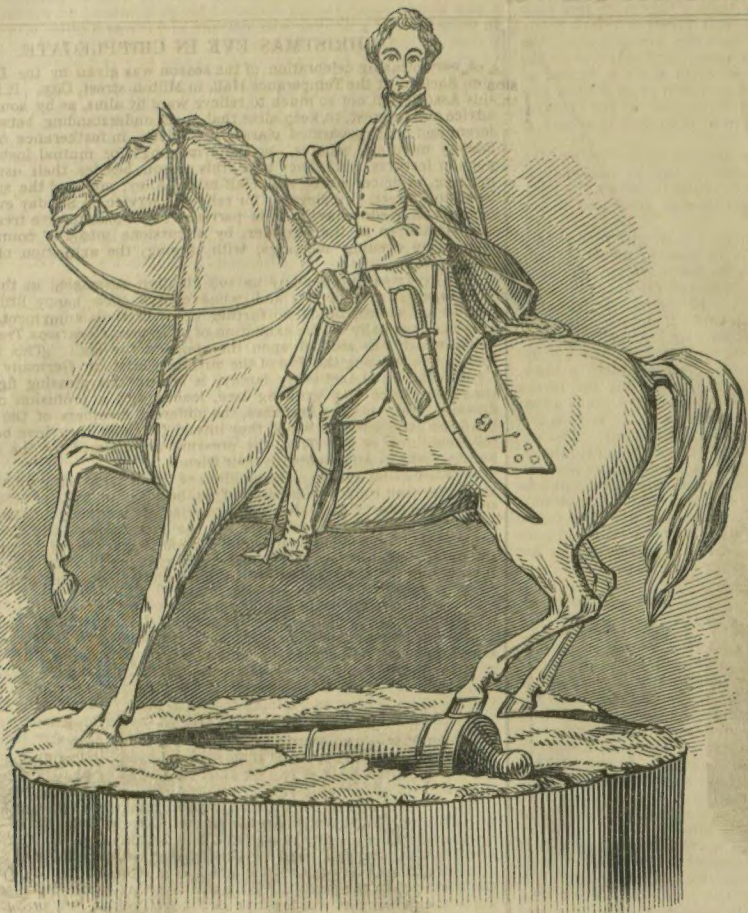
the Court. Mr. Baron Alderson said that the offence imputed to the prisoner, and to which he had confessed his guilt, was by no means uncommon in these days of gambling speculations, and it was a crime of a very serious nature. The prisoner, interrupting the Court, said that at the time he executed the deed he was unconscious that he was doing anything that was wrong. He did it on a promise that he should have the written authority of the party whose name he had affixed to the deed. Mr. Baron Alderson remarked, that this was a defence which, by pleading guilty, the prisoner had abandoned. The sentence he (Mr. Baron Alderson) should pass was the lowest term of imprisonment which the law imposed for the offence of which the prisoner had been convicted, and that sentence was, that he be imprisoned and kept to hard labour in the House of Correction for two years.

SUSPECTED CASE OF PARRICIDE NEAR MORPETH.—On the 10th inst., an inquest was commenced at Cockle park, near Morpeth, on view of the body of Robert Joicey, a labouring man, aged about sixty-seven years, who resided at the place named. His family consisted of his wife, and an unmarried son and daughter. The deceased, it appears, was taken ill after having a large powder administered to him, which was left for him by an apparently strange man, in a rather extraordinary manner, at a public-house, two miles distant. This, and other circumstances, raised a suspicion that the deceased had been poisoned by one of his own family; and the inquest was consequently adjourned until the 10th instant. The man who delivered the poison was muffled up, and his face was not seen by the person who received it; and he merely observed, in a low tone of voice, that it was medicine for old Joicey. The packet bore this inscription:—"I make you a present for Joicey. Take this large powder in a glass of ale, or a glass of wine; and the small one in a little honey or jelly; the one at night and the other in the morning." One reason which induced Joicey to take the powder was in consequence of Dr. Hedley, of Morpeth, not unfrequently having left medicine at the same house. Ralph Joicey, the son, who is a hind on a farm belonging to the Duke of Portland, having left for Newcastle on Saturday, was immediately followed by a police-officer of Morpeth, who apprehended him at the residence of William Joicey, in Hutton's-court, Pilgrim-street, another son of the deceased, on the charge of poisoning his father. A Coroner's inquest has been held, which was adjourned for further evidence. The mother and daughter were afterwards taken into custody. The inquiry was resumed on Monday. Several witnesses were examined. When the evidence was concluded, the Coroner put the case to the Jury, observing, that with respect to the male prisoner, they would labour under no difficulty, so that the chief point for their consideration would be whether the mother and daughter were implicated or not, as accessories. The Jury were absent about a quarter of an hour, and on their return found a verdict of "Wilful murder," against the prisoner Ralph Joicey, adding that in their opinion there was no evidence to criminate the female prisoners. The male prisoner was therefore committed to take his trial at the ensuing assizes.

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—On Wednesday last the Norwich train, which leaves at half-past 11 o'clock for London, when within about two miles from Thetford, was run off the rail. The engine detaching itself from the train, rolled down upon the right of the embankment, killing the engine-driver instantaneously, and bruising the stoker so much that he only survived a few hours. The carriages were thrown down on the left of the embankment, and although they must have rolled completely over, and the wheel been left uppermost, none of the passengers were injured. The general opinion at the time was that the great speed the train was going at caused the accident, as the preceding mile was done in 57 seconds. After two hours' delay the passengers and luggage exchanged trains, and proceeded.

CONFESSION OF THE GIRL CONVICTED OF MURDER.—Last week we gave a report of the trial and conviction of a girl named Martha Browning, for a murder of a very atrocious character, and although the evidence might be considered as of the most conclusive character, yet it will be some satisfaction to those who may have considered it almost impossible for such a person to have committed so fearful a crime, to know that, since the conviction of the wretched girl, she has made a full confession, and detailed all the circumstances connected with the horrible crime. Very shortly after she had been placed in the female capital-convict's cell, she appeared desirous to unburden her mind; and in the presence of the Rev. Mr. Davis, the chaplain, and the governor of Newgate, Mr. Cope, she made a full admission of her guilt. No questions were put to her, or anything said to her to induce her to make such an avowal. Having admitted the perfect justice of her sentence, and expressed that it was her opinion that she ought to die for it, as a warning to others, she said that her only motive was a desire to possess herself of that which she believed to be a £5 Bank of England note; but which, as it turned out, was only a flash note, as it is termed, or one of the "Bank of Elegance." It should be stated that the prisoner can read and write very well; but she said that she never had an opportunity of fully seeing the note until after the crime was committed; and she declared that there was only one note, and not two, as was represented at the trial. She said that, being determined to possess herself of the note, she considered the means of doing so, and at length resolved to take the old woman's life, as being, she then considered, the readiest way of attaining her object, and that she would effect this by strangling her with the cord that was on her box; and she fixed upon the Sunday night to carry her dreadful design into execution. Accordingly, she said, in the middle of the night she got up and cut a portion of the rope off, and then, while the deceased was asleep, she twisted it twice round her neck, and began to pull it violently. The old woman awoke, apparently from a sound sleep, in the agonies of suffocation—she struggled slightly, but just sufficient power to exclaim, "Murder, murder! what are you doing?"—an expression which it will be recollected was spoken to by one of the witnesses who occupied an adjoining room—and then almost immediately expired. At this moment, she said, the person referred to came to the door, and inquired what was the matter. She was then standing over the dead body of her unhappy victim, and it was with great difficulty she was enabled to frame an answer to the effect that nothing was the matter; and thus to induce the party to return to her room. She then remained upon the bed with the dead body until daylight, when she examined the box of the deceased, and took out of the housewife of the poor old creature that which she believed to be the £5 note; and, without attentively looking at it, she placed it in her pocket, and considered of the best mode to escape detection of her horrid crime, and at length the thought came across her to make it appear that the deceased had committed suicide. With a view to this she tied the cord in a knot, and then lifted the body from the bed and placed it on the box by the bed-side, in the position on which it was afterwards discovered. In the morning she gave an alarm, as appeared by the evidence, of the old lady being ill, and went out to inform her daughter of it, and to request that she would come to see her. Upon the prisoner being asked how she could have been strong enough to lift the dead body from the bed and place it upon the box, she said, "I think the Devil must have helped me; but I did it." The prisoner then went on to describe the other circumstances narrated in the evidence, and said that the statements of all the witnesses were quite correct, with the exception of that of the surgeon, which she declared was not so in two particulars, wherein he stated that he was the first medical person who saw the deceased, and that when he did so her eyes were wide open; but she declared that his assistant saw her first, and that her eyes were closed, and her face appeared perfectly composed when he saw her. She then stated, that, having resolved upon the course she intended to pursue, she made her statement before the Coroner with a view to show that the deceased had destroyed herself, and which, as it turned out, had that effect, as the Coroner's Jury returned a verdict that the deceased destroyed herself while in a state of temporary derangement. That by this time she had discovered that the note was of no value, and she said she should never have attempted to make any use of it if she had not been pressed by the old woman's daughter and her husband to lend them some money, and she only went to the public house with the pretended purpose to change it in order to pacify them; and on their then insisting to know how she became possessed of it, she did not know what to do, and eventually told them the story about her having received it from some person in Bedford-street, in the Strand. When, she said, she found that the witness Gaze determined upon accompanying her to Bedford-street, she became quite beside herself, and felt that she could no longer support her position, and from that moment her mind almost forsook her; and she did not recollect the incoherent expressions imputed to her by the several witnesses, although she had no doubt she had made use of them, as she was resolved to admit her guilt. This was the substance of the statement; and after it was made she appeared a good deal more composed, and ever since her firmness has appeared to increase, and she is evidently perfectly resigned to the fate that awaits her. The execution will take place on the 15th of January.

COLLISION ON THE NORTH UNION RAILWAY.—An alarming collision, productive of considerable damage, occurred on Monday night on the line of the North Union Railway. The six o'clock train from Preston had arrived between Wigan and Golborne, being about four miles from Parkside, when the passengers, of whom fortunately there were very few, were suddenly alarmed by a violent concussion, which threw all of them from their seats. A moment or two afterwards the second carriage from the engine was smashed in the front, one wheel being entirely broken, and the next or third carriage, in which was a gentleman, two ladies, and three or four others, partially fell on the left side, the opposite door having previously been broken in by some heavy substance. The train instantly stopped, the engine, which was also much damaged, being brought to a stand-still. Fortunately no one was seriously hurt. One lady fainted, and was with difficulty restored. As soon as the train stopped, the passengers, in very natural alarm, which was increased by the darkness of the night, left the carriages; by the aid of the lamps they could see, lying about in all directions, the wrecks of three or four coal-wagons, which had somehow been left on the line, and with which the train had been in collision. Messengers were immediately sent with lamps in both directions to warn approaching trains of the impediments on the rails caused by the broken carriages. One carriage being on examination found not materially injured, all the passengers were huddled into it, and the engine conveyed them, at a very slow pace, to Parkside. The carriages which had suffered in the collision were necessarily left on the rails till sufficient assistance could be procured to remove them. The third class (quarter past six) and the eight o'clock train were consequently delayed for a considerable time. It is thought that the wagons must have become detached from some train, as they were so far from any station, but no doubt the directors will make prompt inquiry into the matter.



SILVER STATUE OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

SILVER STATUE OF THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.

This beautiful Equestrian Statue of his Grace the Duke of Wellington, has just been executed in silver by Messrs. Widdowson and Veale, of the Strand. Its total height is 29 inches, and its weight nearly 200 ounces. The great Hero is supposed to be giving his last charge on the field of Waterloo—"Up Guards, and at them!"

The details of the costume have been copied from authentic sources; and the likeness is most striking. The ease and *vraisemblance* of the figure, and the execution throughout, reflect the highest credit on the artists.

We understand that this costly memorial of British valour has been executed to commission; and is now on its way to Calcutta.

HER MAJESTY'S IRON STEAM-FRIGATE "TRIDENT."

The *Trident* is the first Iron Steam-Ship-of-War ordered by her Majesty's Admiralty to be built. She was launched from Messrs. Ditchburn and Mare's extensive building-yard, at Blackwall, on the 16th.

Her principal dimensions are:—

Length, over all	200ft. 0in.
Length, between the perpendiculars	180 0
Length of the Engine-room	45 0
Breadth of Beam	31 6
Breadth over all	52 6
Depth in Hold	18 0
Burthen, in Tons, 900.	

Engine power, 330 horses; oscillating cylinders, and tubular boilers. Her principal armament is to consist of two long swivel guns of ten inch bore, one forward and one aft, to fire in line of keel, and four 32-pounder broadside guns. She was designed by the builders, and is considered to be an exceedingly fine and substantial vessel. Her ribs are double, each rib being composed of two angle-irons, 4 inches by 3½ inches, by ½ inch thick, rivetted together, and in one entire length, from the gunwale to the keel; there being of these double ribs 270 pairs. The iron skin is ¾ inch thick at the keel, diminishing upwards at the gunwale to ½ inch. The skin contains 1400 plates of iron, which are rivetted to each other, and to the ribs and keel, by 200,000 rivets. Each rivet was wrought red hot, and required the united labours of three workmen and two boys to rivet it in its corresponding hole.

The weight of the iron hull is 380 tons. The total weight of the ship, with her machinery, coals, water, guns, and stores for sea-going, is calculated at 900 tons. The load water-line is 10 feet 9 inches. The light or launching draught of water, as certified by the Government Inspector, was 6 feet 3 inches. The said light or launching draught of water, as calculated, was 6 feet 3½ inches, being the displacement of 385 tons, the estimated weight of the iron hull; a degree of accuracy not often, we believe, attained in ship-building. The cost of the hull, with the machinery, as contracted, is £31,000.

The price of iron, when this ship was commenced, was £8 10s. per ton; the same material is, at this time, selling for £16.

OBITUARY
OF EMINENT PERSONS RE-
CENTLY DECEASED.

SIR JOHN CHETWODE, BART.

Sir John Chetwode, Bart., of Chetwode, Bucks, and Oakley, Staffordshire (at one time M.P. for Buckingham), died on the 17th, at his marine residence at Bognor, aged 81. He had succeeded to the title no less than sixty-six years ago, and, at the same time, had inherited extensive estates in the counties of Stafford, Buckingham, and Chester. His family was one of the oldest in England, being traced by some to a period antecedent to the Conquest. At a very early epoch, Robert de Chetwode founded the Priory of Chetwode; and, in the time of the Lion-hearted Richard, Sir Robert de Chetwode, Lord of Chetwode, received the honour of knighthood from that Prince, in Palestine.

The deceased Baronet, the son of Sir John Chetwode, the third Baronet, by Dorothy, his wife, daughter and co-heir of Thomas Brentland, Esq., of Thorncliffe, married, first, in 1785, Henrietta, eldest daughter of George Harry, Earl of Stamford and Warrington, and had by that lady a very numerous family, of which the eldest son, John, the present Baronet, assumed, on his marriage with the eldest daughter of John Newdigate-Ludford, Esq., of Ansley, the prior and additional names of Newdigate-Ludford. Sir John married, secondly, in 1827, Elizabeth, daughter of John Bristow, Esq.

LORD WHARNCLIFFE.

James Archibald Stuart Wortley, first Baron Wharncliffe, of Wortley, in the County of York, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom; Lord President of the Council, Lord Lieutenant of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and a Commissioner of the India Board, was born on the 6th October, 1776. He was son of the Hon. James Archibald Stuart Wortley, (afterwards) Mackenzie, by his wife, Margaret, daughter of Sir David Cunyngham, Bart. Being a younger son, for his elder brother did not die till 1797, he was destined by his family for a profession.

After receiving his education at the Charter House, he, at the early age of fifteen, entered the army, and in his military capacity obtained credit and rapid promotion. He served in Canada, and at the Cape of Good Hope. Before 1797, he was a Captain, and acting commander of his regiment; the death of his elder brother, however, in that year recalled him home, to resign the life and profession of a soldier, and to assume the position of his father's heir apparent.

In 1802 Mr. Stuart Wortley commenced his political career as M.P. for Bossiney, in Cornwall; his first public act of note was in 1812, when, in consequence of the death of Mr. Percival, there ensued a lengthened negotiation, somewhat similar to that of present occurrence, respecting the formation of a Cabinet. Mr. Stuart Wortley then moved, in a speech of acknowledged independence and spirit, an address to the Prince Regent, praying that he "would form a strong and efficient Ministry." Mr. Wortley continued to represent Bossiney till 1818, when, at the death of his father, he succeeded to the large family inheritance. He then naturally aspired to be member for the great county where he resided, and, at the general election in 1818, he was returned for Yorkshire, jointly with Lord Milton, now Earl Fitzwilliam. He continued to sit for this important place until the dissolution of Parliament in 1825, and in 1826 he was raised to the peerage by the title of Baron Wharncliffe.

In the political events which ensued after his elevation, Lord Wharncliffe did not take an active part until the agitation of the Reform question; that measure he opposed with great vehemence, ardour, and perseverance; he, nevertheless, attempted a negotiation between the friends and foes of the Bill, but, as every one knows, without the slightest success. In the Administration of brief existence formed by Sir Robert Peel, in 1834, Lord Wharncliffe was appointed Lord Privy Seal. His Lordship went out with his party in 1835, and acted prominently in the Opposition, until the return of the Conservative Government to power in 1841, when he became President of the Privy Council. His Lordship's family had at this time rendered essential service to the new Administration, in the successful result of the Parliamentary contest for Yorkshire, where Lord Wharncliffe's eldest son and Mr. Denison defeated the Whig candidates, Lords Milton and Morpeth.

During the Sessions of 1842, 1843, and 1844, Lord Wharncliffe was almost the leading Minister in the Upper House; the elevation, however, to the peerage of Lord Stanley, relieved him of much of his parliamentary labour. The distinguished earthly career of Lord Wharn-

cliffe was rather suddenly brought to a termination. The noble Lord, who enjoyed a robust and vigorous old age, and who had, though seventy, all the appearance of middle life, was taken ill about a week before his death; early on Thursday he felt better, but later on that day he became insensible, and expired the following morning, Friday, the 10th inst. The proximate cause of this fatal result was an effusion of blood or serum on the brain.

Lord Wharncliffe married, the 30th March, 1799, the Lady Elizabeth Creighton, daughter of the first Earl of Essex, by whom (who survives him) he leaves one daughter, married to the Hon. John Chetwynd Talbot, and three sons, the youngest of whom, the Hon. James Stuart Wortley, is a Queen's Counsel, M.P., and Attorney-General of the Palatinate of Lancaster. Lord Wharncliffe is succeeded by his eldest son John, now second Baron Wharncliffe. This nobleman, who was born in 1801, married in 1825 the Lady Georgiana, third daughter of the Earl of Harrowby, and has issue three sons and two daughters. His lordship, until his father's demise, was member for the West Riding of Yorkshire.

Lord Wharncliffe descended from a branch of the Stuarts, Earls and Marquises of Bute: the second son of the third Earl of Bute, the Hon. James Stuart, father of the nobleman whose death we record, succeeded to the estates of his mother, the Baroness Mount Stuart, only daughter of Wortley Montagu, Esq., and took the name of Wortley in 1795; he subsequently inherited the estates of his uncle, the Right Hon. J. S. Mackenzie, and assumed, in 1803, the additional name of Mackenzie.



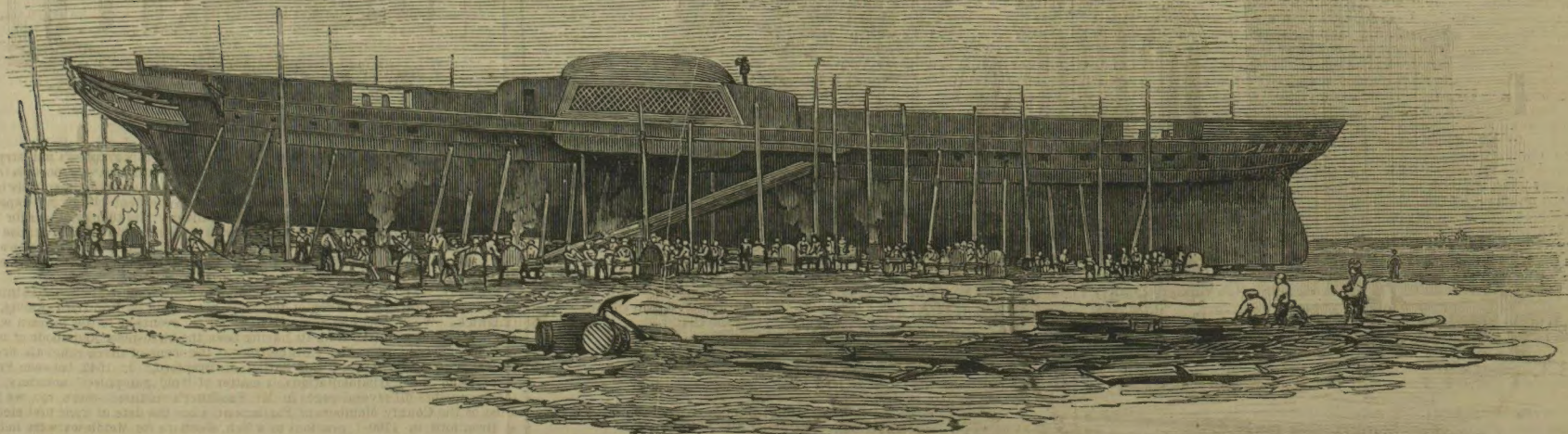
THE LATE LORD WHARNCLIFFE.

The late Lord Wharncliffe was great grandson of the celebrated Lady Mary Wortley Montague, an interesting edition of whose letters he published a short time ago.

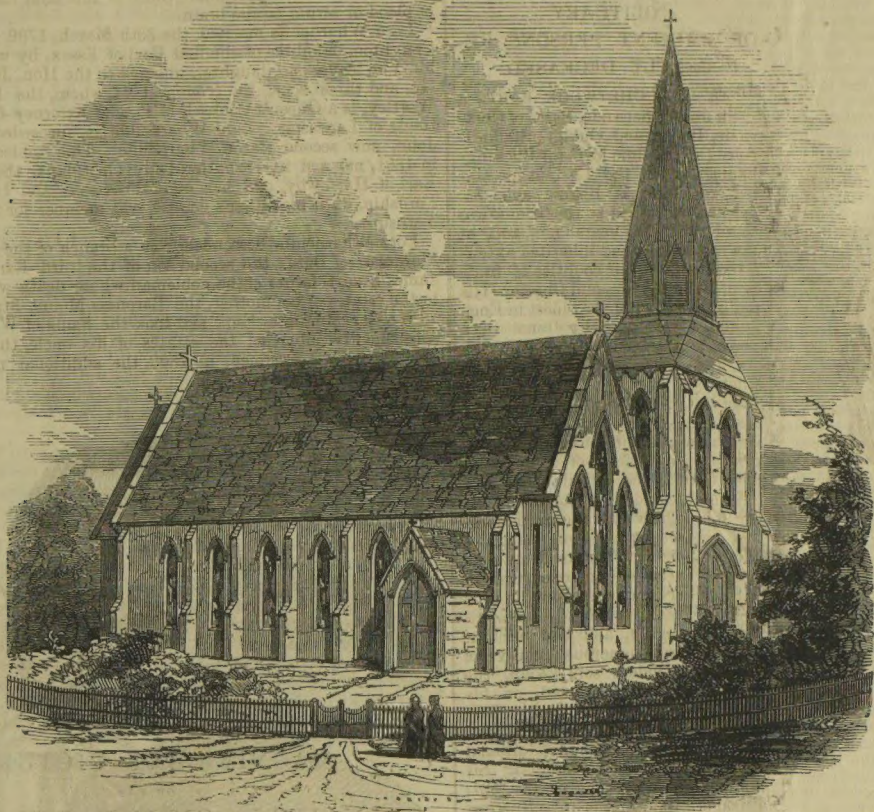
JOHN WILLIAM SMITH, ESQ.

The names of the leading orators at the bar are ever familiar to the public, but there is another eminent class in that learned body, whose fame, though often more lasting, scarcely passes beyond the knowledge of the legal profession: we mean the writers upon law. The subject of this notice is a strong instance of this. His death has occurred without general remark, and yet in him has perished, by an early fate, one of the greatest authors on the subject of the common law since the days of Blackstone. John William Smith was called to the bar by the Hon. Society of the Inner Temple, the 2nd May, 1834, and was latterly attaining extensive practice on the Oxford Circuit, and in the Courts of Westminster. But he has already acquired a high reputation by his "Compendium of Mercantile Law," a perfect model of purity of style, clearness of expression, and extensive knowledge in legal compositions. His other principal work was one entitled "A Selection of Leading Cases," a book now essential to all students, and, indeed, to every one practising at the common law bar.

Mr. Smith also wrote some less extensive treatises; all his productions went through several editions. The extreme toil and energy that these labours required, were too much for his delicate constitution, and during the last year it was evident to the eyes of his brethren in the courts that the learned gentleman was rapidly declining under his exertions. But no warning or advice could induce him to desist, and nearly to the last, he was to be seen at Westminster, with business in hand, and yet



H. M. IRON STEAM-FRIGATE "TRIDENT."



ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

a mere shadow. He died of consumption, on the 17th inst., at his chambers, 2, Mitre Court-buildings, in the thirty-eighth year of his age. His untimely demise is the subject of deep and general regret to all belonging to the Law. His amiable disposition, and unobtrusive manners had endeared him to the Bar, and his genius was such as to render him an irreparable loss. The funeral of the lamented gentleman took place on Wednesday last: the hearse, with a procession of carriages, leaving the Temple for the place of interment, at Kensal-green.

METROPOLITAN CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

The foundation stone of the Metropolitan Church of St. Paul, Auckland, was laid by his Excellency Governor Hobson, on the 28th July, 1841, eighteen months after the first establishment of the Colony. It was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of New Zealand, on the 17th March, 1844; having, however, been previously opened, for the purpose of public worship, on the 7th May, 1843. The edifice is very substantially built of bricks manufactured in Auckland, the ornamental parts of the exterior being completed in dark grey stone, found in the neighbourhood.

The interior is floored, and is provided with neat open benches, similar in character to those which are often met with in English cathedrals. There are no inclosed pews. One third portion of the sittings are "Free;" and the whole are calculated to accommodate 600 persons.

It is intended that the lower part of the Tower should be fitted up and appropriated as a Vestry.

A Gallery at the west end forms part of the original plan; and the necessary arrangements were made, in the erection of the building, for its completion at a future time, but, hitherto, the funds of the Church have not been sufficient for that purpose. The walls of the building are still unplastered, and must remain so, until a sum for the purpose of completing the interior can be raised by private subscription; which, in the present state of the Colony, it is feared will not be for some time.

The sum required would be about Three Hundred Pounds.

The Church is very beautifully situated on a hill overlooking the whole town and harbour, and forms a very striking object in the distance immediately on entering the port.

The entire cost of the building, up to the present time, has been Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty-six pounds, nine shillings and nine pence, which has been provided for in the following manner:—

	£	s.	d.
Raised by private subscription among the inhabitants	933	1	0
This sum, doubled by the Bishop	933	1	0
From the Colonial Government under the Church Extension Act (since repealed)	500	0	0
Loan from the Lord Bishop of New Zealand to the Trustees, bearing interest at five per cent., and for which the Trustees are personally responsible*	500	0	0
	£2866	2	0

(It is very creditable to the good feeling of the inhabitants of Auckland, that

* The interest on this loan, and one hundred pounds of the principal have since been repaid to his Lordship, from the pew rents received by the Trustees.

it was one of their first cares to provide a suitable edifice for the celebration of the public worship of the church; and that, in a colony which has been little more than five years in existence, such a building should have been erected. Should any of our readers take interest in the completion of the edifice, our Correspondent, as a Trustee of the Church, will be happy to afford them any information; and, on his return to the colony, in about two months, will take charge of any contributions which may be intrusted to him, and which shall be, immediately on his return, religiously appropriated to the purposes for which such aid was intended. The name and address of our Correspondent are left at our office.)

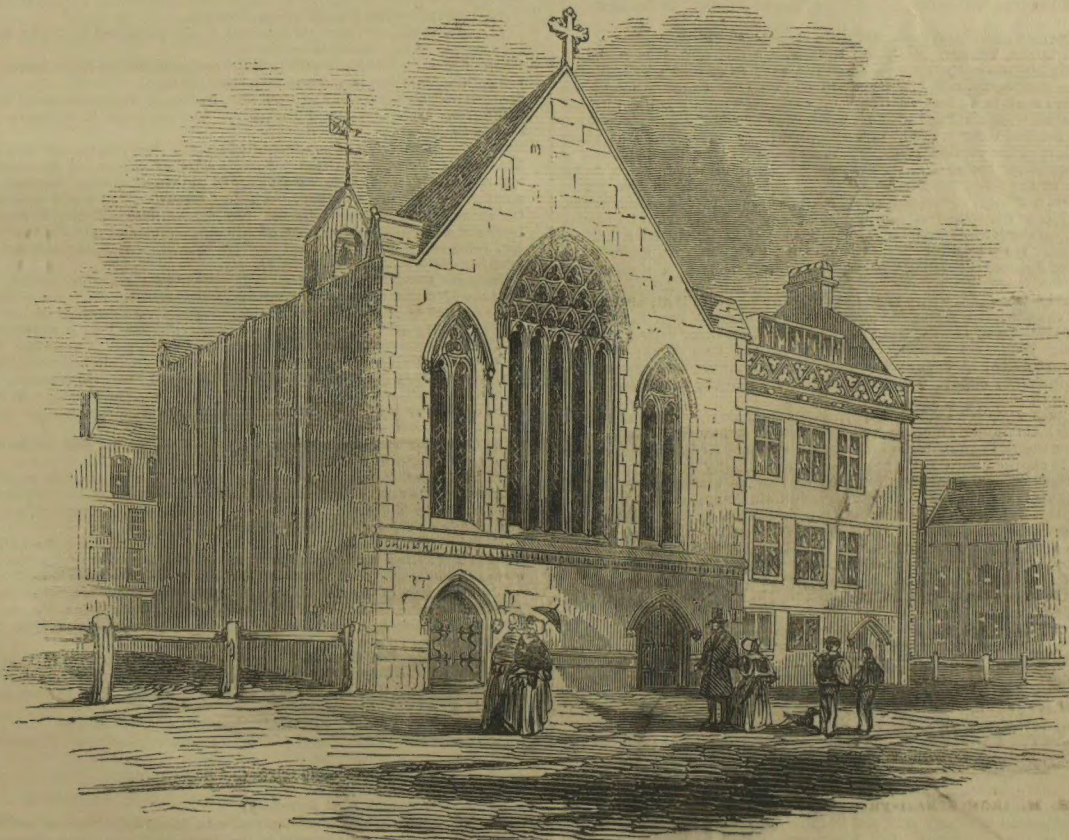
MUNIFICENCE OF THE EARL OF ELDON.—The Earl of Eldon has given £1000 to each of the following societies in connexion with the church in the counties where the noble Earl's estates are situated:—the Salisbury Diocesan Church Building Association, the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Church Building Association, and the Durham Diocesan Society for the Employment of additional Curates. It is said, these splendid pecuniary gifts are as a "thanks-offering" for the birth of a son and heir to his title and family property.

WILL OF THE LATE MR. IRVING, M.P.—The will of the late John Irving, Esq., M.P. for Antrim, was proved, a few days ago, in London, by his nephew and sole executor, John Irving, Esq. It was made in August, 1845, and he therein confirms a testamentary disposition executed by him according to the law of Scotland, whereby he devised his estates at Newfield, in Dumfries, North Britain, to his brother-in-law, Alexander Currie, for life; and, at his decease, to John Irving Currie, the son of the said Alexander Currie, and his heirs. All other his estates in Scotland he leaves to his said nephew, John Irving, and appoints him residuary legatee, subject to a provision for the payment of certain annuities and legacies; and, amongst other bequests, he leaves to his nephew, J. Davidson, £200 a year, and a legacy of £500 to his children. To his nephew, W. Davidson, £200 a year; also several legacies of £500 to nephews and nieces. To his partners, Sir John Rae Reid, Bart., George Reid, and James Milligan, £500 each; and he has remembered other of his friends with similar bequests. The personal estate in England, within the province of Canterbury, was sworn under £300,000, which is independent of his property in Scotland and Ireland. The hon. member died at his residence, Richmond-terrace, on the 10th ult., at the age of seventy-eight.

NEW FRENCH PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

On Tuesday, this newly-erected edifice, in Bloomsbury-street (late Plumtree-street, (St. Giles's), was consecrated, with the accustomed ceremonies, by the Lord Bishop of London. This church was originally established by King Charles II., in the year 1661, in the Savoy Palace, Strand; has been re-constructed on its present site by the descendants of French Protestant refugees, the ground being granted for that purpose by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests.

The new church has been built from the designs of Mr. Ambrose Poynter: it is in the early English style: the principal front has a large and lofty window, flanked by two smaller ones; and the gable is surmounted by an enriched cross. At the opposite end of the edifice is a low campanile, or bell-tower. The premises adjoining are in corresponding style; and have a pierced Gothic parapet, &c.



NEW FRENCH PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BLOOMSBURY.

CHRISTMAS EVE IN CRIPPLEGATE.

A very pleasing celebration of the season was given by the London Mission Society, at the Temperance Hall, in Milton-street, City. It is the aim of this Association not so much to relieve want by alms, as by sound and kind advice and interest, to keep alive that good understanding between the different and much separated classes of society; in furtherance of which the Society maintain schools, promote meetings for mutual instruction, give popular lectures, &c. They have, this season, besides their usual places of meeting, in Spicer-street and Half-moon Alley, engaged the spacious Hall in Milton street, Cripplegate, for religious service on Sunday evenings, and lectures on Wednesdays. It is part also of the plan to give treats occasionally to children in the summer, by excursions into the country; and in winter, by evening meetings, with singing, the exhibition of the magic lantern, &c.

On Christmas Eve as many as 400 children assembled in the Hall, with their teachers and friends; and, whoever saw their happy little faces, and heard their shouts, needs no further proof of their enjoyment, which was crowned especially by the exhibition of a German Christmas Tree, or Tree of Love, which was erected upon the stage of the Hall. This is the usual mode of celebrating the Eve of the birth of Christ, in Germany and on the Continent. In almost every family, is set up this pleasing figure, having the resemblance of a growing tree, loaded with a profusion of fruits and flowers; and, upon its branches, the different members of the family suspend the little presents which they intend for those they love best; and on the exhibition of the Tree, the presents are claimed by the donors, and handed, with compliments, to their friends.

On Wednesday evening, the children of the Mission hung a load of oranges and other fruit on their Christmas Tree, besides hundreds of other presents; the whole being illuminated with a myriad of candles. As they were successively handed to the children by the guardians of the Tree, they presented the gifts to their friends and schoolfellows. We were much pleased to notice that the first present was made by a pretty little girl to the venerable senior Missionary, the Rev. R. K. Philp, who presided over the festival.



CH-ISTMAS TREE.

Before and after the exhibition of the Tree, the magic lantern was shown; and the amusements were enlivened by some pleasing singing. Then the children were addressed by the Missionaries; by Mr. W. Wansey, the Treasurer of the Society; by Dr. Bateman, the Secretary; and by several of the Teachers of the different Schools. The fruit was then taken from the Tree, and distributed amongst the delighted children; and thus terminated this simple celebration of Christmas Eve in Cripplegate.

LITERATURE.

THE HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES OF BRENTFORD, EALING, AND CHISWICK. By THOMAS FAULKNER. Simpkin and Co.

The veteran author of this work had previously produced the histories of Chelsea, Fulham, Kensington, and Hammersmith; so that he has contributed largely to the topography of the Metropolitan County. He has been labouring some forty or fifty years in the vineyard, wherein he has, for the most part, resided; and the fruits of his toil may be received as careful record made in the precise localities.



CHISWICK CHURCH.

The present volume bears ample instance of the topographer's industry and method, notwithstanding his great age; and it is plain that his book is not a mere labour of the library; for, he has evidently collected his materials in the "highways and by-ways" of his district. To the resident clergy he expresses his obligations for their aid in the parochial history: he thanks others for their contribution of original accounts of eminent persons; and specially those gentlemen who have granted him access to the Records in the Tower, and elsewhere—a mass of materials which has already thrown so much new light on the ancient state and succession of property in this country.

Probably, no portion of our metropolitan environs is more abundant in interest than that section of the valley of the Thames wherein lie Brentford, Ealing, and Chiswick. We do not refer so much to historical events as to the interest which the district has acquired from its having been the birth-place and abode of many persons of varied eminence. Brentford was the scene of fierce religious fires in the reign of Queen Mary; "the Battail at Branford," in 1642, between Prince Rupert and the Parliamentarians, is matter of "old pamphlet" notoriety, and the documents fill several pages in Mr. Faulkner's volume; where, too, we have a list of the County Members of Parliament, since the date of their first election at Brentford in 1700-1, previous to which, elections for Middlesex were held on Hampstead Heath. Among the curious extracts from the Parish Books at Brentford, are details of the Hobby Horse, Robin Hood, Maid Marian, and other May games; Hocking at Whitsuntide; Scholars Begging by License; King James's famous Book of Sports; Expenses of "Conveying away Witches"; Keeping the Parish Armour; all interesting traits of manners and times long past. Then, the celebrity of Brentford Butts, and its archery scenes are not for-

gotten; we have a sort of anecdotal chronology of the Middlesex Elections; and there remain at Brentford the house of Sir William Noy, the great cried-up lawyer, of "ship-money" notoriety; besides a few other houses in the Elizabethan style. Here, too, lived Mrs. Trimmer, who, when a little girl, read Milton, which so delighted Dr. Johnson, that he presented her with a copy of his *Rambler*. Notwithstanding its numerous factories, Brentford is healthy, holding a middle place in salubrity between the metropolis and the agricultural districts.

At Ealing lived Mr. Orme, the historian of Hindostan, the friend of Sir Joshua Reynolds and Sir W. Jones; and the Manor House was tenanted by Dr. Dodd, at the time of his arrest for forgery. At Ealing House resided William Melmoth, the classical author of "Fitz-boorne's Letters." At Little Ealing lived Dr. W. King; General Dumouriez; Dr. Pearce, Bishop of Rochester; and Dr. John Owen, the Independent Dean of Christchurch, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, who, "instead of being a grave example," went about in quip, "with powdered hair, snake-bone band strings, with very large tassels, lawn band, a large set of ribbands, pointed at his knees, and Spanish leather boots, with large lawn tops, and his hat mostly cocked."

Gunnersbury Manor (Ealing) was once the property of the celebrated Sergeant Maynard, the best old book lawyer of his time, who practised at the bar more than sixty years, and nearly outlived the law itself. The Manor House, built by Webbe, son-in-law to Inigo Jones, was pulled down in 1800 or 1801, having been for many years the summer residence of the Princess Amelia: it was a fine old place, with a profusion of gilding and marbles, carvings, and polished oak floors, pavilions and temples, gardens laid out by Kent, planted with goodly cedars, &c. On Castlebar Hill, about a mile from Ealing, was the seat of the late Duke of Kent, which his Royal Highness quitted in 1812; and about two years after, the premises were sold piecemeal by auction: we are not surprised at this, for the situation is but moderately inviting. In one of the villas on Castlebar Hill, resided the gallant defender of Gibraltar, General Elliot, afterwards Lord Heathfield. At Pitt's Hanger lived Thomas Edwards, the critic and poet, and friend of Richardson, the novelist; and at Fordhouse, at the eastern extremity of Ealing, Fielding, "The Cervantes of England," sojourned during the last mournful year of his life. In Hanger-lane, Charles Dibdin wrote many of his best songs, in a house now occupied by Sir Francis Sykes.

Chiswick is traditionally said to be named from a large fair for *cheese*, annually held in the field called the "Great Downs," nearly opposite the Duke of Devonshire's; and in ancient writings, the name is spelt Chesewick, or Cheswick. Dr. Stukeley shows the great Roman Road from *Regnum* (now Chichester) to *Pontes*, (now Staines) to have passed through Chiswick; and Mr. Faulkner confirms the finding of the old Roman Causeway in 1834, in what is now Gold Hawke-road. Our veteran author details the civil wars at Chiswick, and the Parliamentary Army at Turnham Green, with the hot medley at Brentford, Ealing, and Acton; still, we suspect Turnham Green to be better known by Goldsmith's witicism of sending stale peas to this locality. College House, Chiswick, appears to have been a sort of *sanatorium* for Westminster School. Dr. Busby lived there, with some of his scholars, in 1657; and the names of the celebrated Earl of Halifax, and John Dryden, were once to be traced on the walls of the school-room. Ralph, who is damned in the *Dunciad*, tenanted this mansion, which is now Mr. Whittingham's printing-office. In Chiswick Lane, too, lived Dr. Rose, almost the only Scotchman whom Dr. Johnson loved and respected. Dr. Rose, in conjunction with his kinsman, Dr. Griffiths, established the *Monthly Review*. Among Rose's visitors here were Johnson and Rousseau; the two Misses Berry, to whom Walpole bequeathed Little Strawberry Hill; Moore, the author of the *Gamster*; and the elegant Arthur Murphy. Mr. Faulkner's account of Dr. Rose is a pleasant piece of literary gossip throughout. Here, too, died Viscount Macartney, who is buried in Chiswick churchyard. Sir Stephen Fox built a large mansion here, which so delighted King William the Third, that he said, on visiting it, "this place is perfectly fine; I could live here five days;" and he paid Burghley no higher compliment. The garden was improved by Evelyn, who oddly remarks, that the architect was "somewhat heavy and thick." This fine old place was pulled down in 1812, and the grounds added to Chiswick House Gardens. Mr. Faulkner gives us a memoir of Sir Stephen Fox, and his portrait, as a frontispiece; among his bequests to the parish, are a cage (parish round-house), a pair of stocks, and a whipping-post. At Walpole House, on Chiswick Mall, some 60 years since, Daniel O'Connell was studying hard for the bar. There have been, for more than 80 years past, two capital breweries at Chiswick, and some of its "tradesmen's tokens" are treasured in the British Museum.

Chiswick House—the Duke of Devonshire's Palladian villa—occupies the site of an Elizabethan mansion, which was mortgaged by Robert Carr, Earl of Somerset, to make up his daughter's marriage-portion. The present Chiswick House was built by the Earl of Burlington, from a villa by Palladio, near Vicenza; still, this was but the central portion, so that Lord Hervey's remark—"The house is too small to inhabit, and too large to hang one's watch," is not merely a piece of humour. Fox and Canning died here: the former in a small tapestried room, in which hangs a portrait of Pope; the latter in a cheerless back apartment. Mr. Faulkner has judiciously devoted an entire chapter to the description of this unique villa and its treasures of art; and the grounds and gardens, and their exquisite productions.

In the lane leading from the town to the Horticultural Society's Gardens, lived Hogarth; the mansion, "Hogarth's House," remains, as does the workshop of the painting moralist: he sleeps in Chiswick churchyard. Holland, the actor, lived at the corner of Burlington-lane; his father was a baker, which occasioned Foote to say, profanely, on his return from Holland's funeral, at Chiswick, that he had been to see "poor Holland pushed into the family oven."

Chiswick Church is described by Mr. Faulkner very minutely: he gives many pages of ancient inventories, monuments and inscriptions, charities and benefactions. The living is a vicarage, the present vicar being the Rev. T. F. Bowerbank, M.A. We quote Mr. Faulkner's details of the church, to accompany our illustration, from a recent sketch:—

"This church is dedicated to St. Nicholas, who was believed by our Saxon ancestors to be propitious to mariners, merchants, and fishermen, and we therefore find many sacred edifices upon the sea coast adjoining great rivers, put under his protection. The present structure appears to have consisted originally only of a Nave and Chancel, and was built probably about the beginning of the fifteenth century, at which time the tower was erected at the charge of W. Boddall, vicar of Chiswick, who died in 1435, as appears by an inscription on a tablet placed against the west wall of the Nave of the church. There are six bells in the steeple, five of which bear date anno 1556. The tower, which is built of stone and flint, is eighty feet high, and the spire and vane is twenty-eight feet high and is crowned with a figure of St. Nicholas, the patron saint. The Chancel is the only part of the old church now remaining, and is built with stone and flint. The interior of the church presents a handsome and uniform appearance: at the last general repairs in the year 1818, the galleries were enlarged, and the whole was painted to resemble wainscot. The Pulpit is judiciously placed against the east wall of the nave; it is octagonal and painted uniform. On Sundays it is covered with crimson velvet and gold fringe. The church is lighted by twelve windows, placed in the north and south aisles, and at the west and east ends of the Nave. The body of the church is fifty-eight feet long from east to west, and sixty-five feet wide from north to south. The chancel is lighted by a large Gothic window at the east end, one circular headed window on the south side, and two on the north side; it projects easterly from the body of the church to which it is connected by a Gothic arch. It is thirty feet long, by fifteen feet wide. On the north side is the Duke of Devonshire's family pew, which he occupies as Lord of the Manor of Sutton. The present organ was first opened on Sunday, April 9th, 1797, with the overture and chorus from Solomon, which was sung by Mr. Braham."

In the church, in the Earl of Burlington's vault, is interred the illustrious Kent, a painter, architect, and the father of modern gardening.

In the churchyard lies De Louthborough, the Royal Academician; here too, is Hogarth's tomb, with the memorable epitaph by Garrick; and an elegant and elaborate tomb erected by Lord Burlington, to the memory of his favourite bricklayer. Here, also, rest Ugo Foscolo, the Italian poet; Fittler, the marine engraver; &c.

The closing chapter of Mr. Faulkner's volume is occupied by details of Turnham-Green, wherein he points to the southern side as the spot upon which "the army of Prince Rupert fell back after the skirmish on Turnham-Green, which succeeded the battle of Brentford."

At Heathfield House—dismantled in 1837—lived Sir Brownlow Cust, the Duchess of Devonshire, Lord John Cavendish, and Lord Heathfield: but only a few fragments of the mansion remain, and the grounds are now a wilderness. Of other fine old places, and their distinguished tenants, we find some pleasant anecdotal sketches; together with a brief description of the Horticultural Society's Gardens.

We trust that we have said and quoted enough to show that Mr. Faulkner's is a very amusing work, and highly deserving encouragement. He announces it as the leave-taking of his antiquarian studies; and we are happy to see the subscription-list headed by the Royal Library, Prince Albert, and the Duchess of Gloucester.

THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH. A Tale of FAIRY HOME. By CHARLES DICKENS.

In great part of the impression of our Journal of last week, we presented to our readers some delightful anticipatory extracts from this new creation of Mr. Dickens's genius. The book has since passed, by thousands, into the public hand; and its main story is nightly enacted to a closely-packed audience; so that its merits have already been pretty extensively estimated; which will supersede our saying much upon the matter, beyond our last week's approbation, by way of extract.

The story, then, is not "a mingled yarn," but a thread of extreme simplicity. The characters move in humble and middle life, and the incident is a mistake which, for a time, ruffles the peace of a contented circle, but is eventually cleared up to the satisfaction of all parties.

The characters are—John Peerybingle, a Carrier, a good-hearted man, who, by the way, sometimes talks heroics, and, at other times, shrinks from a joke; then, we have Dot, the Carrier's wife, a plump, good-humoured little body, much younger than her husband, but very fond of him, and as proud of her baby. Their maid-of-all-work, Tilly Slowbody's business, is to nurse the infant Peerybingle: she is a founding, but not a fondling; and her character, though only a *bit* in the book, is, perhaps, the most original. There are two other remarkable personages in the Carrier's establishment; Boxer, the cart-dog, and a Cricket, who gives name to the story, and, in the association of its tutelary presence with good fortune, supplies the slight machinery of the tale. This idea is homely and English; indeed, a sweet domestic superstition. Tilly is, likewise, a pleasant mixture of pathos and drollery; and the jargon in which she talks to the infant is broad in print, and somewhat of the Gampish order; and will be co-extensively relished.

The Carrier has a neighbour, Old Tackleton, a curmudgeon-like toymaker, who vents his misanthropy in hideous toys, "to rear the tender mind" to disagreeable notions of its species: this, too, is a quaint conceit, with a lesson in

every line. As a set-off, we have a benevolent old fellow, Caleb Plummer, Tackleton's foreman, who has a blind daughter, Bertha. The other characters may be mentioned incidentally.

The work is written in three "Chirps." It opens with a Shandean scene—a sort of match, or trial of skill, between a singing Kettle and the chirping Cricket. We are then introduced to the Carrier's wife, Tilly, and baby: home comes the Carrier, bringing with him a strange passenger, disguised as an old man. He, however, proves to be Edward Plummer, supposed to be dead, who has assumed this disguise to watch May Fielding, his early love, about to be married to Tackleton, at the bidding of her mother, a formal wreck of decayed gentility. Dot, the Carrier's wife, is in Edward's secret; the mischief-making Tackleton witnesses circumstances which lead the Carrier to suspect his wife's fidelity. In an agony of jealousy, he is about to shoot the stranger (Edward) in his bed-room; but is checked by "The Cricket on the Hearth," who calls up a vision of Dot's domestic virtues, and thus appeases the Carrier's wrath. He is further satisfied by Edward appearing with May, whom he has married from out of Tackleton's clutches; whilst Edward is welcomed by Caleb as his son from "the golden South Americas," long supposed to have been dead.

Caleb, and his daughter, Bertha, create a sort of episodal interest: he is a pottering, distraught old soul: his affection for his daughter is so intense that he almost creates a world for the poor blind girl, and so conceals from her his miserable situation, as to make her believe Tackleton to be the reverse of what he is—a benevolent man; and so far has this deceit succeeded, that poor Bertha falls in love with the ideal Tackleton. The scenes between the fond father and the credulous child, are touchingly beautiful. But, the mastery of the tale lies in the struggles between the Carrier and his wife, which abound with strong domestic feeling, such as has ever been regarded as one of the best features of English worth. Dot is throughout an impersonation of the English mother. Nor is the Carrier merely "lumbering, slow, and honest," but "light of spirit," and rich in the true Poetry of Heart. Hence, the working-day character of the main actors is relieved; and the commonplace ennobled by the author's genius. Yet, with this poetic creation alternate the old familiar phases of every day life: the household miseries of the kettle-filling and boiling, and Tilly's nursery slang, so to speak, are as perfect of their kind as any member of the Ethnological Society could desire.

As a whole, the present work falls somewhat short of the author's "Christmas Carol;" but is very superior in tone and feeling to his volume of last year. He has rejected the *virtus*, which would estrange rich and poor, though it affects to aim at bringing them more closely together. We are heartily glad of Mr. Dickens's rejection of this troubled and troubling spirit, and we think it is a judicious step; his popularity was founded in portraying the amenities of life, and it will not be extended by sharpening its asperities or exaggerating its enormities.

The story is inscribed to Lord Jeffrey. It is liberally illustrated, and among the artists are three Royal Academicians; we, however, scarcely think the un-English frontispiece and title-page appropriate to a story of an English home.

SPIRIT OF GERMAN POETRY. By JOSEPH GOSTICK. Smith's Standard Library.

This is an admirable addition to this valuable and well-selected series of works. It is a collection of specimens of the German poets of all ages, from the days of the Niebelungenlied and the Minnesingers, down to the present period. The introduction is fairly written; and throughout the work we are pleased to note the absence of that exaggerated admiration which some have expressed for the poetry of the Germans. The biographical notices are short, and the analyses given of the style of each writer are clear and intelligent. The more elaborate notices of Goethe and Schiller are exceedingly well executed. In the extracts throughout the book, the labours of some former translators have been appropriated, but the great bulk of them are by the author. A few specimens of modern political poetry would have given a completeness to the "Spirit" of German Song; but altogether the book is the best, as it is certainly the cheapest, work on the subject that has ever appeared.

THE EUROPEAN LIBRARY. D. Bogue.

The excellent "beginning" of this series has been well followed up by a new translation of Guizot's History of the English Revolution of 1640, which, "previous to the French Revolution, was the greatest event which Europe had to narrate." Still the work is better characterised as the history of the reign of Charles I., from his accession to his death; and, even considering the multitude of books written upon this eventful period, Mr. Guizot's work is a truly valuable contribution to history, and by its lucid comprehensiveness is especially adapted for a Series of Books for popular reading. The translation, by Mr. Hazlitt, is stated to be as nearly as possible in the author's own style. The quotations given from the original sources consulted by the author, and a copious index, denote the translator's editorial diligence. The volume is illustrated with an engraving of Charles I., from Vandyke's portrait in the Pembroke collection.

POLICE.

THE ALLEGED MURDERS ON BOARD THE SHIP "TORY."—COMMITTAL OF CAPTAIN JOHNSTONE.

On Tuesday, at the THAMES POLICE COURT, *George Johnstone*, the captain of the ship *Tory*, was once more examined, charged with the murder of Rambert, Reason, and Mars, and also for cutting and wounding the crew. Several witnesses were heard, who deposed to facts which for the most part are known.

John Lavis, surgeon of the Westminster House of Correction, gave evidence as to the state of the crew when the *Tory* arrived. He said he examined, on the night of the men being committed to prison, Nelson, Gair, and Barfon. This was on the evening of the 17th ult. The others, of whom he had the names on a paper before him, he examined next day. The three first men appeared scarcely human; their wounds had not been dressed or washed for several days, their hair was dishevelled, and they were very dirty. By his orders they were put into the infirmary. The next morning he made a particular examination of all the men. The witness then read a paper which he drew up at the time and signed. It stated that Nelson had an incised wound on the scalp, and another on the collar bone and back of the neck. The side of the neck and face was burned and disfigured as if by gunpowder. There were several wounds on other parts of the body. Gair was the worst wounded, having his head scored in several directions with wounds. His face was much disfigured with gunpowder, and he had several wounds on the body. There were about twelve other of the men who were wounded, some of them very extensively, but the two named were the severest cases. Allison had a severe wound, by which his ear was almost separated. The wounds had, however, healed very readily, and might be considered more extensive than severe. This was the substance of the written paper. The witness continued, and said he examined the captain after he was taken into custody. Witness found a punctured wound on the back of the leg. Since then it had been attended with severe erysipelas inflammation. The captain was much depressed when he was taken, and in a bad state of body, which might have been the cause of the inflammation. The prisoner had no symptoms of recent drinking. The wound named was the only one.

Alexander Sinclair, the carpenter, next called, was examined respecting the origin of the transactions on board the ship and relating to the death of Rambert.

Other witnesses confirmed the statements already given. Beresford, Curtis, Tucker, Blackdon, Spence, Glover, and Allison, being the remaining portion of the crew that had not been examined on the fourth charge, were then called in. Mr. Hayward confined the examination to the actual injuries each had received from the captain, without going into the general case on which evidence had already been fully taken. Beresford said he had got two cuts on the head, and one on the wrist, and was made to kiss the sole of the captain's foot. Curtis stated that he had been cut in several places about the head and body with a cutlass, all hands being down in the cabin at the time, on their knees. Tucker deposed, on the 7th of November, he had been called down to the cabin, and ordered on his knees, and that, while in that position, he was fired at by French, through order of the captain, on the face, the captain standing by at the time, with a cutlass over his head. He was afterwards cut and fired at while on deck. The statements of Spence, Blackdon, Glover, and Allison, were of a similar character.

Mr. Broderip, then addressing the prisoner, informed him that, after a long and careful examination, it was his painful duty to commit him for trial at the ensuing sessions of the Central Criminal Court, on three capital charges of murdering William Rambert, chief mate of the ship *Tory*; Thomas Reason, second mate; and William Mars, common sailor; and also on the charge of feloniously cutting and wounding the crew of the same ship.

A DASHING SWINDLER.—On Monday, an unusual degree of interest was excited at MARYLEBONE office, in consequence of it having been the day appointed for the re-examination of *Frederick William Kelly*, alias *Captain Kelly*, who is charged with having obtained fraudulently a sum of money from Mrs. Oakley, a dressmaker, residing at No. 76, Lisson-grove North. There is a probability that, on a future day, full and complete proof will be given, that, through the instrumentality of a dashing equipage, and a lady by whom he was accompanied in his rides and drives, he has succeeded in carrying on a system of plunder to a very considerable extent. On Monday a great many new charges of swindling were preferred and substantiated, and one of the witnesses was a young girl named Shaw, whom he had induced to leave her parents, and live with him as his wife, though she is very young, and he is a man fully 60 years of age. He was again remanded till Monday next, that other parties may have an opportunity of coming forward. He was, at first, very confident in his manner; but when he saw the mass of evidence against him, his spirits failed him.

FIRE AT LIVERPOOL.—A dreadful fire broke out at an early hour on Monday morning in the extensive iron foundry of Messrs. Smith and Willey, at Liverpool. The alarm was first given about three o'clock; the flames spread rapidly, and all efforts to arrest their progress were abortive until the roof had fallen in, and the first floor burned through. The building is completely gutted, and at present only the four outer walls are standing. About 300 workmen are thrown out of employment by this catastrophe. The damage is estimated at nearly £20,000. Many valuable patterns were destroyed and all the machinery. The insurance is said to amount to only £8000 in the West of England office.

MAGNIFICENT PERIODICAL PRESENTS

TO THE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

GRAND PICTURE EXHIBITIONS OF THE PRINCIPAL CITIES OF EUROPE.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

In the month of December—and, as it were, on the threshold of another prosperous year—we are again enabled to make one of those joyous announcements to our readers, which are ever sources of pleasure to ourselves in the proportion in which their fulfilment tends to the profit and enjoyment of the Public, "for whom we live"—or, at least, of that portion of it with whom we are in weekly and friendly communion.

The perfect honesty of principle and purpose with which this Journal has continued its career, has maintained for it the undeviating confidence of those who placed reliance upon its early promise, and have had no reason to regret their trust. This is our boast; and it will be seen that we uphold our right to it.

It was in this spirit that—destined little to profit, but much to please—we prepared those magnificent commemorations of our early patronage, and afterwards confirmed prosperity—the GRAND VIEW OF LONDON—and superb PANORAMA OF THE THAMES—presented, at fitting intervals, to our readers.

It is in the same spirit that now—towards the close of our Seventh Volume, and another year—with foot firm in the stirrup—gratitude inspiring, and confidence insured—we announce our intention to present our readers with Noble Presents, in appropriate form, and with the best genius and illustration that modern art can afford, and without a thought of expense,

MAGNIFICENT PICTURES OF THE PRINCIPAL CITIES OF EUROPE.

It is not more our determination that their production shall surprise all who receive them, than that the faithful illustrations themselves shall become so many records and monuments of what the good-will and hearty friendship of the public enabled the first Illustrated Newspaper in the Nineteenth Century to achieve. Edinburgh and Dublin put forth their sister claims with London; and we may well aspire to reflect on a grand scale, the Chiefest Cities of Europe, when not Europe, nor any territory short of the whole known world, is able to affix a limit to our circulation.

The minute details of our plan, in presenting these Magnificent Pictures to our Subscribers, will be immediately placed at their disposal. For the present, we are glad to believe that there is not one of them who will not feel confidence and pleasure in its plain ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Number of our Journal, with the Presentation Print, price 6d. No extra charge will be made. The first Print, a VIEW OF THE CITY OF DUBLIN, will be presented early in the ensuing year.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, Dec. 28.—First Sunday after Christmas—Innocents' Day, in commemoration of the massacre of the children, by command of Herod, King of Judea—Malthus, the anti-populationist, died, 1834.
MONDAY, 29.—Lord Stafford beheaded, 1689—John Wycliffe died, 1384.
TUESDAY, 30.—Order of Jesuits established, 1535—Royal Society established, 1660—Coleridge born, 1772—Flamstead died, 1710.
WEDNESDAY, 31.—St. Silvester—Charter of the East India Company granted, 1600.
THURSDAY, Jan. 1.—Circumcision—The Festival of the Circumcision was established about the close of the fifth century, and adopted in the Church of England, 1550.
FRIDAY, 2.—Edmund Burke born, 1730—Lavater died, 1801.
SATURDAY, 3.—Lucien Bonaparte, brother of the Emperor of France, sought a refuge in England, 1811—General Monk died, 1670.

Here WATNA at London-bridge, for the Week ending January 3.

Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
M. A. M. h. m. h. m. h. m. h. m. h. m. h. m.	M. A. M. h. m. h. m. h. m. h. m. h. m. h. m.	M. A. M. h. m. h. m. h. m. h. m. h. m. h. m.	M. A. M. h. m. h. m. h. m. h. m. h. m. h. m.	M. A. M. h. m. h. m. h. m. h. m. h. m.	M. A. M. h. m. h. m. h. m. h. m. h. m.
1 49 2 13 2 38 3 5 3 29 3 52 4 15 4 41 5 2 5 29 5 53 6 17					

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A Subscriber," co. Wexford.—The number of subscribers to the London Art Union is uncertain. We beg to repeat our reply to a Correspondent last week:—In answer to our Correspondent and several other Subscribers, respecting the chance or legality of a Sham Lottery, put forward by an obscure weekly journal, we are induced to offer one or two observations, to put thoughtless people on their guard against parting with their money. As to the plan of numbering receipts, and appearing to issue them to the public, how easy it would be to give "a friend" many thousands of these receipts; and, in case of any one of such receipts being the number entitled to a prize, of course the public would not know the actual position of the holder! From beginning to end, the scheme is illegal; and no one claiming a prize could recover it. The whole is, therefore, "a delusion, a mockery, and a snare."

"Andréevos."—See No. 176 of our Journal.

"J. L., Peckham."—"Czerny's Exercises" are published by Cocks, and may be had of any music-seller for 8s.

"A Son of Erin."—"Moore's Melodies" are published in ten volumes, at 15s. per volume, and one supplementary book for 6s.

"Emmeline," Guildford.—The Hon. Mrs. Norton is the authoress of the words "We Have Lived and Loved Together," and the music is arranged from a sonata by Herz.

"Fusbos."—If our Correspondent dislikes the Jew's harp, let him try the Triangle, Cymbals, or Drum. Some amateurs choose the Barrel Organ; others, the Flute. It is really difficult to point out "what musical instrument may be acquired without the aid of a master," so much depending on the aptitude of the aspirant. He who begins with a Penny Trumpet may turn out a Hurper; but we can, at all events, recommend "Fusbos" to take Dr. Johnson's advice, and not try the Violin, which the learned lexicographer declared to be the acme of art.

"A Constant Reader."—1. Tickell is the author of the stanza quoted. 2. The mistake of Scott is accounted for by Mallett having written a poem on the same subject of "William and Mary." Both were founded on old ballads. 3. The poetry of "The Nation" has been published in a separate form. 4. The best modern maps are those of the Useful Knowledge Society. 5. We are not aware of a detached colonial census. Montgomery Martin's Colonial Library contains information for the colonies separately.

"Casaromagus."—The Earl of St. Germans is a Conservative: he held the office of Secretary for Ireland under the present Government, till his elevation to the Peerage by the decease of his father.

"Hymen."—The Bill did not pass; and the marriages will be as legal as before, i.e., according to the Scotch Law.

"S. P. E."—Get "German without a Master," and Fluegel's or Norden's Dictionary. Avoid a French Grammar—the idioms of the two languages are essentially different: an English Grammar and Dictionary are far the best, the two tongues being akin to each other.

"S. C. T."—The Argentine Republic is a translation from the Latin "Re-publica Argentina," which is equivalent to the Republic of La Plata, Plata meaning Silver in Spanish, and Argentines having the same import in Latin.—No difference of grade exists in the eye of the law between the Inner and Middle Temple. The members of both practise in the same Courts. Some members of Lincoln's Inn are members also of the Inner or Middle Temple, and there is no reason why they should not be.

"Self Taught."—The German nouns Baum and Kreutz form their plural by adding an e. The first is masculine; the second, neuter. The German declensions are not so strictly defined as the Latin. For the last question, consult a Spanish Grammar.

"J. G. J., county Mayo."—The letter has been duly forwarded.

"An Emigrant in Perspective" is recommended to read Stuart's work on the United States.

"L. H., Birmingham, should apply to a navy-agent.

"J. S., Warslow."—No.

"A. M. Z."—A confidential Secretary.

"F. H., Unbridge."—The specimen sent was, to all appearances, written.

"Delta."—The number of proxies in the Duke of Wellington's possession has been much exaggerated.

"Y. Z."—We cannot engrave the sketch sent.
 "G. B."—Hampstead.—The information given at Doctors' Commons is, doubtless, correct.
 "P. K. S."—The Earl of Mornington's address in London is Kivart's Hotel, Brook street.
 "S. L. D."—Newcastle-on-Tyne.—The details of the Views of the Cities of Europe will be shortly announced.
 "J. C."—Gateshead.—The postage of our Journal to Dresden is 2d.
 "J. T. T."—It is thanked, but we have not room.
 "Taunton."—Address a note to Mr. Van Voorst, 1, Paternoster-row.
 "Medicus."—Should address the Income Tax Commissioners.
 "Clericus."—The subject would, on many accounts, be objectionable.
 "W. H."—Northampton, was replied to in our last.
 "Dramaticus."—Mr. Sheridan Knowles is not otherwise related to the author of "The School for Scandal" than by the kindred of genius.
 "C. C."—The editorial incognito should be inviolate.
 "Ph."—Jersey.—Declined.
 "Y. B. A."—"Hackney Coach and Cab Fares," published by Mogg, London.

A Correspondent who has written a note respecting the identity of Lord John Russell's house is altogether incorrect: he should be himself better informed before he attempts to correct others.

"J. O. B."—Limerick, should order the covers and numbers of any book-seller.

"An Interested Inquirer."—See No. 177 of our Journal.

"J. L."—Liverpool.—Try Air's Self-Instructing French Grammar.

"An Etonian."—Declined.

"J. W. S."—Keighley.—We will engrave the subject shortly.

"H. E."—Gloucester.—The address of Lord Jeffrey is Edinburgh. Mr. Sheridan Knowles was, not long since, at Madeira.

"A Subscriber from the Commencement," London, is thanked for his long and well intentioned letter.

We have received the Post Office Directory for 1846; but not in time to do justice to the important improvements in this volume.

ERRATUM.—In our Report of the Royal Academy Prizes, last week, the name Mr. W. Walters should be Mr. J. W. Walton.

INELIGIBLE.—"Come, Sing a Song."—"The Holly."—"On the Closing Year."—"On the Opening of the Thames Tunnel."

The SEVENTH VOLUME of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, Price Eighteen Shillings, will be ready the First Week in January, 1846, elegantly Bound in Cloth and Gold, Gilt Edges.

Subscribers are informed that Cases for binding Vol. 7 are now ready. Vol. 1, price 21s.; Vols. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, price 18s. each.

Cases for binding any of the Volumes, price 3s. each.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1845.

RECONSTRUCTION OF THE CONSERVATIVE MINISTRY.

OUR readers will recollect that some time since we intimated the probability that Lord Ellenborough would accept office under the administration of Sir Robert Peel. Such an event, we have reason to believe, will now take place very shortly. We also mentioned that Mr. Gladstone would return to the Ministry in a more important position than he had before occupied. This statement has proved to be perfectly correct; for, as will be seen by an announcement elsewhere, Mr. Gladstone is now Colonial Secretary, in the room of Lord Stanley. The Ministry is completely re-established, and, although we do not affect to know the exact proposal which will be submitted to Parliament respecting the Corn-laws, we have heard from a well-informed source, that the principle of the commercial policy to be pursued will be to repeal all protective duties. We believe that Sir Robert Peel will take a general review of the whole fiscal system, and preserve only those duties which are necessary for the purposes of Revenue.

The Correspondent from whom we derive this information assures us, that no proposal for a total repeal of the Corn-laws at once, will be made; but that the duty will be gradually lessened for five years, and will then totally cease. There are reports that some compensation will be made to the Landed Interest, for any supposed loss from the repeal of the Corn-laws. We hear, however, that this compensation will be made, not in money, but in the shape of relief from burthens. For instance, that the county rates will be charged on the Consolidated Fund, and some other concessions made, to decrease the burthens of which the Agriculturists complain. One great feature of the plan, we believe, will be the repeal of the Malt-tax.

THOUGH offences must needs come—and causes of them particularly abound in the intercourse of nations and states—we are always glad when one is escaped which was thought inevitable. From the tone of President Polk's Inaugural Address, it was thought that his first Message to Congress would have been an intemperately worded document; the anxiety respecting it was somewhat increased by the unsettled state of political affairs here at the time it was expected. In both respects, circumstances have proved more favourable than was anticipated;—the Ministry is formed, and the Message itself is moderate in its language, though firm enough in the substance of the demand on the point on which the greatest anxiety was excited. But nations are more apt to be offended with the manner in which a demand is made, than with the substance of it; and, at all events, when no bad feelings have been roused, the demand itself can be better considered. Altogether, the President's Message is better than most of those written by his predecessors; its style is remarkably clear, flowing, and easy, without either obscurity or verbiage. It includes explanations and statements on numerous questions, two of which, Oregon and the Tariff, are of the utmost importance here. The annexation of Texas is treated as an event of the past, and a warning is given to all European Governments not to interfere with the increase of the American territory with any of their old "balance of power" notions. To a certain extent we agree with Mr. Polk, that any interference with the development of the Republic of the Great Western Continent, would be uncalled for, as it would not affect either the peace or the interests of Europe. But when an European State has a territory that may be absorbed in the process of that development, she is bound to interfere for the preservation of her own power; unless, like Mexico, she is too weak to do more than protest, or has suffered her territory to become American to all intents and purposes by neglect. The case between England and America on account of Oregon, is one of territory—perhaps a very worthless one—but not the less capable of being made the subject of war: it is no meddling or uncalled for interference, which would be the case if any other state unconcerned in the matter took part in the dispute. The proposition of Mr. Polk is to terminate the present convention by a year's notice, and then, apparently, trust to the influence of American occupancy and American law; but this will be unsatisfactory on both sides, and we cannot but believe that two nations so remarkable for the possession of clear common sense will be able to effect an honourable compromise. The value of the whole territory in fee simple would not be worth the expense of one year's war; a quarrel, too, about territory is worthy only of a barbarous age. We can understand that between civilised nations such a thing as a war may spring from invasion; Europe, Christian as it is, may yet see a war of principles; but to kill and slay about boundaries and landmarks at this time of day, would be indeed to retrograde. We hope to see this dispute settled by another Ashburton Treaty, and so we trust do many on the other side the Atlantic. The other part of the Message most interesting to us is that relating to the Tariff, and Revenue, and Protective Duties. In the discrimination he makes between these kinds of duties, Mr. Polk appears to great advantage. His remarks might be read with profit by statesmen nearer home.

POSTSCRIPT.

SHIPWRECKS AND LOSS OF LIFE.

The fearful gales from the N.W. and N.E. that have prevailed for the last week, have occasioned the most distressing casualties off all parts of the coast. Already we regret to announce that intelligence has been received of the loss of upwards of thirty coasting vessels, as also many homeward-bound foreign ones, with valuable cargoes.

In the Channel the effects of the gales were truly frightful. At Bideford, on Friday night, two vessels were totally lost, within sight of the shore; and both crews, with the exception of one man, perished. One was a brigantine, named the *Aibion*, belonging to Brixham, laden with iron; and the other's name, at present, has not been ascertained. Her loss took place on the Brauton Sands. In the vicinity of the coast of Strumble Head and Cardigan Bay, the casualties were of a most fearful character, upwards of forty lives having, it is supposed, perished on board one vessel.

A disastrous and total wreck took place on the rocks in Cemac Bay on the north-east coast of Anglesey. She was barque-rigged, about 400 tons burthen, and called the *Frankland*, Captain E. C. Friend, master, laden with hides, sugar, cotton, and other merchandise, and was lost within a few hours sail of her destination (Liverpool) after a favourable passage from Bahia. It is reported that the amount of the loss of the ship and cargo will exceed £20,000.

Along the same coast, off Pwllheli, Abeystwith, and Portrualaan, a number of other casualties happened, though not of so melancholy a character.

A collier was lost on Friday (last week), near Bowcastle, and is supposed to have been from Bideford. Her unhappy crew acted bravely to save her, but it was utterly impossible; and, at ten o'clock at night her cables snapped, and she was carried amongst the rocks, where she soon became a wreck. All belonging to her, excepting one man, met with a watery grave. The poor fellow remains in such a state as to be unable to furnish any facts concerning her loss.

The effect of the gale on the north eastern coast, from the mouth of the Thames to Scotland, appears to have been as disastrous as in the Channel.

At Redcar for three days it blew with terrific violence, and on Sunday evening a vessel, supposed to be the brig *Commerce*, of Stockton, Mr. Lister master, foundered to the southward of the harbour, and every soul of her crew perished. A vessel, seeing her go down, bore down to her in the hope of picking up some of the unfortunate creatures, but none were to be seen. She had sailed from the Tees on the previous Wednesday, for Dundee, laden with coals, and the inference is that the captain, finding the gale continuing, endeavoured to return, and in doing so met with her unfortunate loss.

On the Dutch coast, near Norden, where the gale was fearful, another wreck, of an appalling character, occurred, viz., the total loss of an English vessel, supposed to be the *Bellona*, from Jersey. The number believed to have perished is fourteen or sixteen.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has most graciously condescended to intimate her intention of patronizing a Grand Fancy Fair and Bazaar, which will be held on the occasion of the Opening of the New Hospital for Consumption and Diseases of the Chest, the foundation-stone of which was laid by his Royal Highness Prince Albert in June, 1844. The Bazaar will take place early in the forthcoming spring.

THE MEETING OF PARLIAMENT.—The *Gazette* of last night contains a Proclamation calling upon Parliament to assemble on Thursday, the 22nd of January.

DEATH OF SIGNOR GIUBILEI.—We are sorry to announce that Signor Giubilei, the vocalist, formerly of the Opera House and Drury-lane Theatre, died lately at Naples, where he had gone, in hopes of improving his health, but, in consequence of a second operation for the dropsy, he sunk under it, at the residence of his sister. Madame Giubilei (the clever dancer) has been left (in London) to lament the loss of a kind and affectionate husband.

FUNERAL OF LORD WHARFCLIFFE.—The remains of the late President of the Council were removed yesterday (Friday) morning, at the early hour of five o'clock, from Curzon-street, May fair, to the terminus of the Birmingham Railway, Euston-square, for interment in the family vault, near Wortley Hall, Yorkshire. The procession to the terminus consisted simply of the hearse and two mourning coaches.

RATING OF PRINCE ALBERT'S FARM AT WINDSOR.—A paragraph appeared in our impression of the 13th inst. on the subject of the rating of the farm held by his Royal Highness Prince Albert in the parish of Windsor. Mr. Darvill, solicitor of Windsor, having been professionally employed by the overseers and churchwardens of the parish to endeavour to obtain from his Royal Highness the payment of arrears of Poor-rates, amounting to nearly £230, and not having succeeded, after a correspondence with Mr. G. E. Anson, the Prince's private secretary, on the subject, the parochial authorities determined to memorialise the Prince himself on the matter in dispute. Accordingly, a memorial was drawn up, couched in the most respectful language, to his Royal Highness, pointing out the great losses which had been sustained by the parish, during the past twelve or fourteen years, in consequence of the vast amount of property in the town and neighbourhood, which had been purchased by the Crown, and, consequently, now unrated; and, showing, at the same time, in the opinion of the inhabitants in vestry assembled, that his Royal Highness, having clearly a beneficial occupation in Flemish Farm, was liable to be rated to the relief of the poor equally with those who were compelled to pay the Poor-rate upon property adjoining that occupied by the Prince. A letter has just been received by Mr. Darvill, written by Mr. G. E. Anson, by command of his Royal Highness Prince Albert, in which it is stated, in effect, that the Prince still demurs to the legality of the claim which has been made upon him by the parochial authorities, in pursuance of a resolution unanimously passed at a vestry meeting held in September last; and that his Royal Highness, under the impression that the parish has no legal claim upon him for any Poor-rate alleged to be due for Flemish Farm, intend to have a case submitted to the law officers of the Crown, and to abide by their opinion on the subject. As soon as the opinion has been obtained by the Prince, no time will be lost in transmitting a copy of it to the memorialists, on the part of the parish. In the event of the opinion of the law officers of the Crown being in favour of the view taken of the matter by the Prince Consort, and adverse to the expectations of the parishioners, a Vestry Meeting will be immediately called for the purpose of laying the case and the opinion of the law officers before them, as well as the correspondence which has passed between Mr. Anson, on the part of the Prince, and Mr. Darvill, on behalf of the parochial authorities; in order that they may come to some final decision on a subject which has created great excitement throughout the borough.

ROYAL DISPENSARY FOR DISEASES OF THE EAR.—The annual general meeting of the governors of this useful charity was held on Monday at the Dispensary. Resolutions were passed thanking the Queen, Prince Albert, the Queen Dowager, the King of the Belgians, and other branches of the Royal Family, for their support and patronage; also to the surgeon and directors; Mr. Curtis, for his attention to the patients under his care. Mr. Curtis briefly returned thanks, and afterwards exhibited a variety of new medicinal preparations with which he became acquainted while visiting the French and German Hospitals, and which he has found very useful in cases of otorrhoea and tinnitus aurium.

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

FRANCE.—The latest Paris papers all agree in the expression of their satisfaction at the inability of Lord John Russell to form an Administration. The *Moniteur* publishes a Royal Ordinance authorising the exportation of grain and flour through Fes, St. Beat, St. Mamet, and Bagnères, in the department of the Upper Garonne, and through Arraon, Genost, Arragonet, Gavarnie, Cauterets, Arrens, Vielle, Gedre, Luz, and Argeles. The *Presse* announces the sale of the Hazebrouck and the Fampoux line of Railroad to the Great Northern Company. This arrangement is said to be very advantageous to the latter Company. The opening of the Chambers is looked forward to with great interest. Letters from Algiers of the 17th state that the troublesome Bou Maza has at length been killed. He is said to have been surrounded by a French column and cut to pieces.

THE UNITED STATES.—The packet ship *Europe*, Captain Furber, which left New York on the 5th inst., and the Boston packet-ship *Concordia*, which left on that date, arrived at Liverpool on Thursday morning. The papers received, however, contain no news of interest.

"LUNAR RAINBOW."

(To the Editor).

I noticed, in the last number of your valuable Journal, a few remarks respecting the appearance of a "Lunar Rainbow," on the night of Dec. 3rd last. With all due deference to your Northwich Correspondent, he errs in his judgment with regard to its being a lunar phenomenon; the setting moon, at that time, occupying an oblique position, to an imaginary line drawn from the two extremities of the arc.

I subjoin the following from my own observation in this city (Norwich). The day preceding this appearance was very stormy; between three and four o'clock in the afternoon, some very dark clouds arose from the south-west, accompanied with heavy showers of rain, and hail, and thunder. At about half past eight in the evening, two streams of whitish light were observed, one from the E.N.E., another from the W.S.W., which soon began to form a regular arc above the horizon, at an elevation of 63 deg., like a rainbow, having its centre in the direction of the magnetic meridian. It did not appear to be the result of decomposed light, no trace of colour being visible; but, to be connected with the Aurora Borealis, at that time, spreading its luminous radiations above the northern horizon. This arc possessed all the brilliancy, as well as transparency, of that species of electric light; and confirms, without doubt, its connection therewith. It began to disappear at a quarter past nine, gradually growing fainter, till it vanished entirely at about half-past nine.

A SUBSCRIBER, ad initio.

[We have also received a corrective communication on the above subject from T. H., Great Malvern; and from E. S., Wotton, describing it as a display of the Aurora Borealis.]

LAW INTELLIGENCE.

RAILWAY MANOEUVRES.—In the Court of EXCHEQUER, on Tuesday, a case was tried, *Lemort v. Heath*, in which the plaintiff sought to recover from the defendant the sum of £429 10s., paid by him to the defendant on the purchase of 280 scrip certificates of the Kentish Coast Railway Company, and which disclosed facts of a somewhat unusual character. It appears that in the month of November, 1844, a company under the title of the Kentish Coast Railway Company, for making a railroad from Dover, Deal, Walmer, and Sandwich, to Herne Bay, with a branch to Ramsgate, was projected by Mr. John Curling, solicitor, of Waterloo-place. Several gentlemen of respectability were induced to become provisional directors of the proposed scheme, on the distinct understanding that they were not to be called upon for any portion of the preliminary expenses. In due time offices were taken in New Broad-street, and a prospectus was issued detailing the advantages of the undertaking. In the February of this year the allotment of shares took place. There were to have been 18,000 shares, at £25 each, the deposit on each being £1 7s. 6d. Some time afterwards the Board of Trade published a report unfavourable to the project, in consequence of which the parties who had obtained shares did not seem over anxious to pay in their deposits; these deposits were paid only on 63, for which scrip certificates, issued at the Company's offices, were given. The scrip deposits were signed by two of the directors, and countersigned by a Mr. Richard Edwards, who had been appointed secretary by Mr. Curling. The whole amount of the deposits did not exceed £520, while the sum that should have been paid to bring the Company within the terms of the act of Parliament and enable it to proceed was £161,000. Upon that the directors came to a resolution not to proceed further with the scheme, and not to issue any more scrip. But, notwithstanding that resolution of the directors, the Kentish Coast Railway scrip appeared in the market at a considerable premium. The plaintiff, through his brokers, who were persons of great respectability, purchased some time in April 250 shares, for which he paid £432 10s., the sum now sought to be recovered from the defendant, who was the seller of the shares. Upon the winding-up of the affairs of the Company, the directors agreed to pay back £1 per share to those who had paid in their deposits, reserving the 7s. 6d. per share for the preliminary proceedings. The plaintiff soon discovered that the shares he had purchased did not entitle him to any return, no deposits having been ever paid upon them, and the directors repudiating them as fictitious. Upon inquiry it turned out that Mr. Curling and Mr. Richards, without the knowledge or sanction of the directors, had the engraved plate, from which the scrip certificates were struck, altered; so that it required only to be signed by the secretary; and not, as before, by the secretary and two directors. The scrip thus altered found its way into the market, and was sold at a premium; and it was scrip of this spurious character upon which no deposit was ever paid, or, if any were paid, none was received by the Company, that was sold to the plaintiff as the scrip certificates of the Kentish Railway Company. The purchase was made in June, and it appeared that the defendant, who was a broker of respectability in the City, was himself ignorant of the kind of scrip he sold, he thinking at the time that he was dealing with the genuine article. It was under these circumstances that the plaintiff now sought to recover back the amount of money so paid. It was contended for on the part of the defendant, that the directors of the Company were bound by the acts of Curling and Richards, and that the scrip, though not signed by the directors, was really that of the Company. It was also contended for, that a party selling scrip in the market cannot be understood as guaranteeing it in any sense of the term. Such a construction would be ruinous to thousands.—The Lord Chief Baron, in summing up, told the jury that jobbers in scrip were in the same condition as dealers in any other article. The thing contracted for must be the thing delivered, or else the seller will be liable for the purchase-money. Here, if the defendant agreed to sell 280 scrip in the Kentish Coast Railway Company, and delivered that which, in fact, was not the scrip of that Company, he would be responsible for the amount received in the transaction to the purchaser. The question for the consideration of the jury in this case was, whether the scrip sold by the defendant to the plaintiff was the scrip of the Company, or of Curling and Richards? If the scrip were that concocted by Curling and Richards, then the plaintiff was entitled to recover, for the defendant did not perform his contract, not having delivered the article that had been contracted for by the plaintiff.—The jury not being able to agree, retired, and having remained in till nearly the rising of the Court, returned with a verdict for the plaintiff for the full amount, £432 10s.

EPITOME OF NEWS.—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

The *France* announces its receipt of a letter communicating the news of the death of the Shah of Persia, Mohammed Mirza, who succeeded to the throne of his grandfather in 1834. He was the son of Abbas Mirza, who died in 1833. The *France* adds, that a civil war had broken out after the death of this sovereign, as there were not less than five claimants to the throne; but the capital is said to have been tranquil, a regency having been organised under the influence of the Russian and French Ambassadors.

The *Feuille du Commerce* of Port-au-Prince contains an official notification of the transfer of the seat of Government from Port-au-Prince to Cape Haitien.

The King of Bavaria has issued a decree abolishing the custom of compelling his Protestant soldiers to kneel on the passing of the host, and declaring that, on the occasion of the procession outside the church, on the day of the Fête Dieu, none but Catholic soldiers shall attend.

A letter from M. Rondot, one of the commercial delegates, to M. Lagrené, dated Canton, September 5, contains the following:—"Arsenic is known here in all its shapes. It is used in agriculture, for killing the worm which destroys the young shoots of the rice-plants. The Celestial Empire has also its Brimvilliers. Four days ago, on the beach of Canton, near Tchoukiang, a Chinese girl, between eighteen and twenty years of age, was executed for poisoning, with arsenic, her father, and her mother, and sister-in-law. This unfortunate creature was literally dissected alive. They began by cutting off her breasts; then, in succession, her nose, her eyelids, her ears, and so on, the other parts of her body."

A Cornwall (Jamaica) paper announces the rather sudden death of the Rev. William Knibb, so universally known as the head of the Baptist Western Union, and as the leading member of that persuasion in that part of the island.

Constantinople letters assert that the Turkish Ambassador to England will probably be Halil Pacha, but that, at all events, Chekib Effendi cannot receive such an appointment, being disqualified by his doings in the Lebanon from holding so honourable a post.

A letter from Berlin, of the 13th, states, that the King of Prussia has authorised the building of a second Catholic church in the capital, and permitted a collection to be made for the purpose in all the Catholic churches in the kingdom, without prejudice to the sum which his Majesty intends to contribute.

A letter from Vienna of the 13th says that the Duke de Bordeaux had arrived in that city a few days before, and dined at the Court. On the following day he returned to Frohsdorf. The Duchess d'Angoulême was passing a few days at the Court, and had been present at the opera of *Don Sebastian* in the Royal box with the Empress-Mother.

Accounts have been received from Tahiti to the middle of August. Admiral Seymour had arrived at Papeiti, in the *Collingwood*, and saluted the flag of the Protectorate.

The celebrated Belgian violinist, Vieuxtemps, solemnly renounced the other day the doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church, and became a Lutheran. The solemnity took place in one of the churches of Frankfort.

Letters from Monte Video, of the 31st Oct., state that Oribe then retained his position, but it was supposed that he would not be suffered to occupy it much longer. Paraguay, it is said, has declared war against Rosas.

The Viceroy of Egypt is about to found at Cairo a school of the Fine Arts. His chief object in creating this institution is, it is said, to disseminate amongst his subjects a taste for the study of all things relating to Egyptian architecture. It is reported that M. Garnaud, a French architect, is to be placed at the head of this institution.

The *Augsburg Gazette* states that a revolutionary plot has been discovered in the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, whose object was the seduction of a whole battalion of Tuscan troops, in order to invade the Roman States. Twenty men of this battalion have fled.

Accounts have been received by the Admiralty of the Polar expedition under Sir John Franklin, up to the 16th August, when they were on the North Coast or Greenland, above Gilbert's Sound. They would probably winter near this spot, or at the Arctic Islands, the wintering place of Parry, amongst the Esquimaux; as the state of the ice and the advancing season, would prevent much further progress being made this year.

The *Diario di Roma* of the 13th instant, announces the arrival of the Emperor of Russia at Rome, on the preceding day. His Majesty alighted at the Palazzo Giustiniani, the residence of the Russian Legation. The Emperor travelled under the title of General Romanoff.

Letters from Palermo state, that the Emperor Nicholas had received from the Imperial Crown Prince a despatch, expressive of the most serious apprehensions for the internal peace of the empire. The system of religious persecution and proselytism practised of late by the special direction of the autocrat had created universal discontent, not only in Poland, but also in every province of Russia. The Emperor, after reading that despatch, drew up an ukase, which he immediately forwarded to St. Petersburg, directing that the operation of that system of intolerance and persecution be suspended for six months.

The German papers state that Ronge returned to Breslau on the 3rd inst. When he left Dresden a dense crowd surrounded the carriage; matrons and young girls showered nosegays and garlands upon him profusely, and he was repeatedly obliged to stop to shake hands with one and another of his admiring friends. Professor Wigard sat in the carriage with the Reformer, and a cavalcade of carriages conveyed him for some distance on his homeward way.

C H R I S T M A S .

THE POULTRY PALACE.

Why here at Christmas time of year
They hang out game for luck O,
For—like unto a new built house—
It is all over stuck O.

And yet it is not ev'ry house
That's stucco'd in this manner,
For there are skins enough outside
To satisfy a tanner!

It seems that ingenuity
Has stretch'd its every nerve,
For game is here hung out to keep
Just like a game-preserver.

And yet they are hung out to sell—
"Ah! look upon that front, Sir;
'Tis there—'tis there—you catch your hare,
And hav'n't long to hunt, Sir!"

Then as for birds—you look and long,
As if to say, "Have at you!"
You shoot your gold—the birds are sold,
And there's your Christmas battue!

Come, fill your bag—from roof to flag
The poultry things are pending;
O will you play, this Christmas Day
The game of money-spending!

Down Holborn Hill the 'bus rolls fast,
Protected by its drag, then;
But at its foot you cry avast,
And there your game you bag then.

You see a house—where geese and grouse
Are thick as any clover;
You cry—my eye—it is all up,
And so it is all over!

NEWGATE MARKET.

In olden time, the mode sublime
Of giving men a treat,
Was much, I think, to make them drink,
Which was consider'd meet!

But Temp'rance now has changed, I vow,
All Alcohol and Yeast;
And those who once would buy a bull,
Now go and buy a beast!

So meat—yes, meat—instead of drink
Being very much adored,
It takes its Christmas lodging now
Upon the festive board!

So, evermore as Christmas comes,
Men like it and they lark it;
And, just to practise their new gait,
They go to Newgate Market!

Well, here it is—with grease enough
The kingdom to anoint:
Ha! who can say, this Christmas day
The Times are out of Joint!

Joint! Joint! why here are joints enough,
Without a single ache,
To make to-do, all Christmas through,
With Boil, and Roast, and Bake!

All nations truly, I do think,
In this Meat market join:
See Frenchmen stir, and pas loin, Sir,
From buying a Sirloin!



POULTERER'S SHOP, HOLBORN HILL.

Ribs, ribs by thousands, every kind
Of British beef is there:
A lady buys a monstrous round,
To send to Russell square!

Mutton—Ah, yes, in every form
Upon the light it drops;
The horseman eyes his saddle, and
The beggar smacks his chops!

And though even crippled pensioners
Stick fast to wooden pegs;
The reckless butchers in this mart
Are selling their last legs.

Fat runs to law—that is to say,
With legal eyes men view it;
And lawyers, as they pass that way,
Keep running in to sue it!

Veal, veal, Oh, veal, we leave to Peel
The common weal or woe;
But isn't it sweet to see the meat
Adorned with mistletoe!

And doesn't it look, hung high on hock,
Quite greaseful near the holly,
And when we pay, oh doesn't the tray
That bears it home look jolly.

By day or night this mart is light,
Oh let no mortal dark it;
For in Christmas time it seems sublime,
To buy at Newgate Market!

THE NORFOLK COACH.

Ah! coaches once were all the go,
With passengers a-top;
Now, that would not be safe—because
The nation's let them drop!

They used to roll so very fast,
Like suicides, I deem;
The horses didn't know the risk
Of getting up the steam!

But now the steam has got them down,
And Science has proved trickier,
For that which once was all a coach,
Has now become all dickey!

Nor friends nor folk—the Norfolk Coach
Could drive from its abode
That may arrive in London, for
It's still upon the road!

It is a Christmas coach, I vow,
And whirls along in pride;
For all its outside passengers
Are food for the inside.

Turkey and pullet ride and tie
Game, poultry, cheek by jowl;
I wonder who was game to pay
The fare for so much fowl!

But only think when they're at home,
Admired, pluck'd, and spitted,
On tables free, how they will be
To highest ranks admitted.

With bottles broach—"the Norfolk coach!"
As good a toast as heard is;
And long live they who feast to-day
Upon its Christmas "birdies!"



NEWGATE MARKET, ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

THE SONG OF LEADENHALL MARKET.

What ho! for a Christmas market
For selling of good cheer—
If such you want, my merry friend,
I'd have you mark it here!

A noble character it has—
No better could befall—
And, certes, it must have great weight,
For it is Leaden-hall!

To Grub-street once did poets roam
To spend their little "dub,"
But this is the more honoured home
Of all the people's grub!

Ha! whither wend you, traveller,
As City-wards you hie?
I dare to guess you're going to Change?
"You're wrong, I'm going to—buy!"

The market wide of Leadenhall
I seek as I'm a sinner,
Where people make a Christmas din
In buying Christmas dinner.

Why all the City I declare
Has thither swept its tide,
Behold its Poultry and the crowd
That walk on its Cheap-side!

Come buy! buy! buy! the tradesfolk cry
With emphasis quite clever,
Oh bi! bye! bi! by! bi! bi! buy!
Ma'am now's your time or never!

Alive, aloud, the cheerful crowd
The merry tradesman hear,
Nor will his joke the fair provoke
"It's very cheap my dear!"

Chirp! chirp, chirp, chirp, my destin'd birds,
Of chirping there's no dearth;
Not Dickens' self will more produce
From "Cricket on the Hearth."

Fat fowls! although in basket now,
And so behind a wicket,
Your're going near the hearth, I trow,
For any thing but Cricket!

Long rows of ducks! eternal ducks,
That half the market fill;
Tho' Arthur Dux hath giv'n the word
Of "No more ducks on drill!"

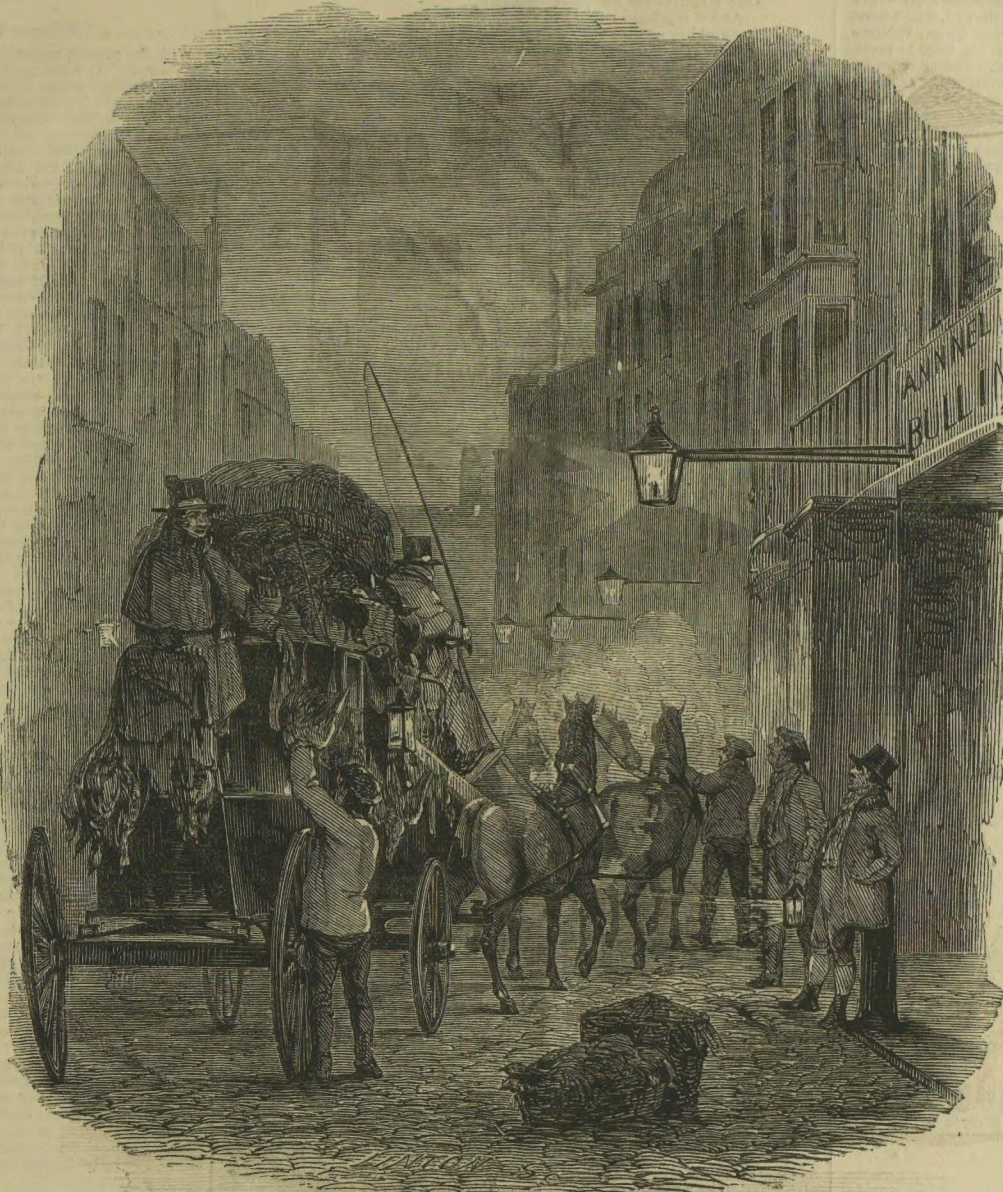
Geese! geese! fat geese of every hue,
Brown, green, grey, black, and murky;
With din dons that might well dine dons;
Oh most tremendous Turkey!

Hare, pheasant, plover, pullet, pig—
Pig makes the mouth look smile-ish,
Fresh from the sty—in every eye—
And looking rather sty-ish!

Well, here's enough our frames to stuff—
Enough in rhyme and reason;
Get great and small, from Leadenhall,
Prime seasoning for the season.

* The Duke has issued an order this week
against the wearing of ducks by soldiers.

C H R I S T M A S .



NORFOLK COACH.

And as your Christmas fare you buy,
And hear the seller boast it,
That best of cheer may rule the roast,
Why take it home and roast it.

And when your buying's spread, and fed
Your friends, where you're a dweller,
Then ring and make your DINING-ROOM
At once receive your CELLAR!

Our Artist has most picturesquely portrayed four of the characteristics of a London Christmas; or, rather, of its hospitable indications of abundance of good cheer. Here we have the great *Newgate Meat Market*, where is sold large proportion of the million and a half of sheep, and two hundred thousand head of cattle, which are annually consumed in this vast metropolis. Next is a scene from *Leadenhall Market*, the great place for poultry, game, and rabbits; the returns for which, in one year, equal half a million of money. Leadenhall is, likewise a large meat market. It is related that Don Pedro de Ronquillo once said to Charles II., that he believed there to be more meat sold in Leadenhall Market alone in one week, than in all the kingdom of Spain in a year.

The *Poulterer's Shop*, on Holborn-hill, a few doors from Farringdon-street, is another of London's wonders at this festive season, when the whole house front is covered with poultry, game, and rabbits.

The *Norfolk Coach* may almost be termed a relic of other days, so nearly has the railway locomotive superseded the stage-coach. There are many of these vehicles to spare for such purposes as that shown in our illustration; where geese are inside passengers.

A GOSSIP OF CHRISTMAS.

"Why, gentlemen, do you know what you do Ha! would you have kept me out? CHRISTMAS! —Old Christmas—Christmas of London, and Captain Christmas! Pray you let me be brought before my Lord Chamberlain; I'll not be answered else. 'Tis merry in hall, when beads wag all." I have seen the time you have wished for me, for a merry Christmas, and now you have me, they would not let me in: I must come another time! A good jest—as if I could come more than once a year. Why, I am no dangerous person, and so I told my friends of the guard. I am old Gregory Christmas, still and, though I come out of Pope's Head-alley as good a Protestant as any in my parish." So "Rare Old Ben" ushers in Father Christmas in his Masque, "as it was presented at Court in 1616. 1616! The year of Shakspeare's death, and of Oliver Cromwell's entry at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. And after Old Father Christmas, in his round hose, long stockings, close doublet, high-crowned hat, with a brooch, long, thin beard, truncheon, little ruffs, white shoes, with his scarfs and garters tied cross, and his drum beaten before him," follows the merry motley train of his sons and daughters, Misrule, and Carol and Mince-pie, and Gambol and Wassail and New Year's Gift. And there sits the old pedant of a King, and laughs heartily, for he loves a jest, and has a peculiar weakness for Ben's Masques, tho' at times a shade comes across his face, for his favourite, Ker, Earl of Somerset, and my lady of Essex, were found guilty of atrocious poisoning only last year, and there is a foul secret connected there-



LEADENHALL MARKET, ON CHRISTMAS EVE.

therewith, and the King's name has been banded about somewhat irreverently. But still it must have been a merry night at Whitehall, that Christmas night. We can fancy the blank dismay of the Court of Queen Victoria, whom, God preserve, were Prince Albert to take it into his head to revive old customs, and have a Christmas masque at Buckingham Palace, with the contributors of *Punch* to write it and Mr. Planché to superintend the costume. The pen is not so much under the control of the sceptre as it was in James's day, and unwelcome truths and hard facts would be peeping out from under the Vizard, which not all the Lord Chamberlains in Christendom could quite put down. Masquing has retreated from the Court to find a popular asylum in the theatre, and the broad jests of the Pantomime have superseded the classical conceits of the Elizabethan play-wright.

The outward glory of Christmas has departed. The Lord of Misrule no longer makes his appearance; "the grand Captain of Mischief," as Philip Stubbs, the Puritanical anatomizer of abuses, calls him. "This King," says the scandalised worthy man, "chooseth forth twenty, forty, threescore, or an hundred lusty wights, like to himself, to wait upon his lordly Majesty, and to guard his noble person. Then every one of these men he investeth with his liveries of green, yellow, or some other light wanton colour; and, as though they were not gaudy enough, they bedeck themselves with scarfs, ribbons, and laces, hanged all over with gold rings, precious stones, and other jewels. This done, they tie about either leg twenty or forty bells, with rich handkerchiefs in their hands, and sometimes laid across over their shoulders and necks, borrowed, for the most part, of their pretty Mopsies and their loving Bessies. Thus, all things set in order, then have they their hobby-horses, their dragons, and other antiques, together with their pipers and thundering drummers to strike up the devil's dance withal." And as the pious but narrow hearted Puritan goes on in his description he waxes warm in zeal, until, at last, he drops into downright abuse, very edifying no doubt to all well-disposed minds of the time. "Another sort of these fantastical fools bring to these hell hounds, the Lord of Misrule and his accomplices, some bread, some good ale, some new cheese, some old cheese, some custards, some cracknels, some cakes, some flans, some tarts, some cream, some meat, some one thing, and some another." Only let Mr. Philip Stubbs's friends get the upper hand and away go these tomfooleries, and Oliver made short work of them. Yet still they lingered long amongst our remoter villages. Strong in the old feeling that hallowed the time with the blessing of home gatherings and family love feasts, Christmas held his Court, spite of Protector and Parliament, and the North still boasts its Yule-clog, and its Yule-cake, and its hobby-horse-even. Honour to old Christmas! He is like his own consecrated holly green still—green with the freshness of that perpetual youth which springs from the fountains of hearth and home.

If ever a man felt our old English feelings warmly, and expressed them beautifully, it is Herrick, the jolly parson of the times of the civil wars. It is refreshing to contrast the ringing and cheery flow of his dancing verse with the sour indignation of Master Stubbs. Harken to Herrick:—

Come, bring with a noise,
My merry merry boys.
The Christmas log to the firing;
While my good dame, she
Bids ye all be free,
And drink to your heart's desiring.
With the last year's brand
Light the new block, and
For good success in his spending
On your psalmies play,
That sweet luck may
Come while the log is a-tending.
Drink now the strong beer,
Cut the white loaf here,
The while the meat is a-shredding;
For the rare mince pie,
And the plums stand by,
To fill the paste that's a-kneading.

Nor, while he sung the merriments of Christmas-tide, with as much unctious as the flowers and fragrance of May, was he unmindful of the more solemn feeling of the time. His Christmas Carol, "sung to the King in the presence at Whitehall," is a sweet and solemn lyric.

What sweeter music can we bring,
Than a carol for to sing
The birth of this our Heavenly King?
Awake the voice, awake the string!
Heart, ear, and eye, and everything
Awake! the while the active finger
Runs division with the singer.

From the flourish they came to the song.

1. Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honour to this day,
That sees December turned to May.
2. If we may ask the reason, say,
The why and wherefore all things here
Seem like the spring-time of the year?
3. Why does the chilling winter's morn
Smile like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like to a mead unshorn,
Thus on a sudden? Come and see
The cause why things thus fragrant be.
'Tis He is borne, whose quickening birth
Gives life and lustre, public mirth
To heaven and the under earth.

Chor. We see Him come, and know Him ours,
Who with His sunshine and His showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.

1. The Darling of the World is come,
And fit it is we find a room
To welcome Him. The nobler part
Of all the house here is the heart.

Chor. Which we will give Him, and bequeath
The holly and this ivy wreath,
To do Him honour, who's our King
And Lord of all this revelling.

The Christmas Carol is still heard in the north, and probably in other simple-mannered parts of England. We have often listened to it, in child hood, when it sounded through the dark, sweetly and solemnly, though rudely sung, and we fancied there was something mysterious in the music, as it was borne on the windy gusts over the silence of the snow. We have had to thank the unpretending Waits here, in unromantic London, for much pleasure, albeit they waked us from pleasant sleep at untimely hours, but we miss the country carol.

The waits smack of Jullien's concerts and the lamps—the country carol had a lingering beauty of the old worship about it. The grace that clings to the idea of "Mary Mild," the "Sweet Mother of Mercy," was still rife in these old world songs, and they helped to blend the larger sense of human, Christian brotherhood with the narrower brotherhood that hallows the family hearth. We fear that, though the latter is still strong at this season, the former wants quickening. There is nothing gives such a zest to a Christmas dinner at your own table as the feeling that you have helped to cover that of your poorer neighbours—no sauce to a roast turkey like that. It is better than burnt brandy to your plum pudding. But enough of the gravities. Next week we shall have to gossip of pantomime.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

A jovial Carol for Christmas time,
Merrily, merrily sung—
Cheering the dwellings of Rich and Poor—
Spiriting Old and Young!
Into the well of the world's deep heart
Pouring a stream of joy,
And bidding it fresh as a fountain start,
To bathe the jolly Old Boy.
For as sparkling Christmas comes,
Robed in his frost so fine;
He chaseth tears from the hurrying years,
And ordereth Wassail Wine!
A Christmas Carol for good Roast Beef—
The Britons' rare old boast—
On every table in English homes—
Plenty for guest and host!
Enough to crown the feast
With a solid comfort cheer;
A foaming flask from the old ale cask,
And a tankard brimm'd with beer!
For when sparkling Christmas comes,
Sharp, with his air of cold,
He scattereth grief—like a brave old Chief—
And calls for his ale so old!

A Christmas Lay to a subject gay,
Plum-pudding on the board!
Rioting free round circles of glee,
With never a stint or hoard!
Fast and fragrant steam,
To add to the pudding's pride;
Steeping the soul in a pleasant dream
Of brandy sauce beside.
For when hungry Christmas comes,
He snorts like a fiery horse;
And shouteth come—be quick with plum-
Pudding and brandy sauce.

Oh! a festive lay for Christmas Day,
And it ought to reach the skies,
In thinking sounds that set no bounds
To mirth or to—mince pies!
And when mince pies are cut and gone,
Then rouse each well-fed soul,
Bring here—bring here—our fluid cheer—
Punch, Wine, and Wassail-Bowl!
Yes—when Old Christmas comes,
He sings without control!
D'ye hear?—bring here my jolly cheer—
Punch, Wine, and Wassail-Bowl!

Punch, Wine, and Wassail-Bowl
Our jovial Carol claim,
But CHRISTMAS strong, hath other song
For singing in his name!
Song for the holly green,
Unfading still and fair,
That weaves his crown of old renown,
And decks his palace rare.

So when King Christmas comes,
His burly hands are seen
Stretched forth to claim his
His jolly holly-green!

Another Carol of Christmas time,
Lustily caroll'd now,
Must trip from tongue of old and young,
The bough—the kissing bough.
Ho, ho! ho, ho! for the mistletoe
That hangeth by the wall,
And smileth bliss on every kiss,
And tokeneth joy to all.
For when dear Christmas comes,
He will not hear of woe;
"But glad," cries he, "you all must be
'Neath the merry mistletoe."

So this is our Carol of Christmas time—
Merrily, merrily sung—
Cheering the dwellings of Rich and Poor—
Spiriting Old and Young!
Into the well of the world's deep heart
Pouring a stream of joy,
And bidding fresh as a fountain start,
To bathe the brave Old Boy!
For as sparkling Christmas comes,
Robed in his frost so fine,
He dasheth tears from the hurrying years,
And ordereth Wassail Wine!

THE LATE SIR MATTHEW TIERNEY.—The late Sir Matthew John Tierney, M.D., left behind him personal property estimated at £30,000. He died without issue, but by his will he has bequeathed to his niece, Mary Tierney (the daughter of his brother Thomas Tierney, late paymaster of the 43rd Regiment of Light Infantry), who resided with him, a legacy of £8000, for her absolute use. To his brother, now Sir Edward Tierney, Bart., a legacy of £10,000; and to his niece, Harriet Mary, daughter of Sir Edward, he leaves £5000. The residue of his property, real and personal, he has given to his nephew, Matthew Edward Tierney, of the Coldstream Guards, son of Sir Edward; and appointed his said brother, Sir Edward, and nephew, Matthew E. Tierney, Esq., his executors. The latter alone obtained probate on the 18th inst. The will was made in January, 1843, and a codicil last September, a month before death.

THE MINIATURE JOHN BULL.—A companion, or, in some respects, rival to "General Tom Thumb," has just appeared at the Exhibition Rooms of the Society of British Artists, in Pall Mall East. He was born at Kitesford, near Taunton, Somerset; his age is 16 years; height, 34 inches. He is of symmetrical proportions, and is really a very ingenious dwarf. He performs an entertainment in six scenes—John Bull; the British Sailor; Napoleon; Shaw, the Life Guardsman; a Poacher; and "the Old English Gentleman;" all in costume, with songs and dances. In his old English dress, he is a miniature Sir Roger de Coverley. The performance is, we assure our readers, very interesting; and, as one of the miniature world, he will prove one of the holiday sights of the ensuing week.

HARVEST IN DECEMBER.—On Monday, the 1st instant, Mr. Morgan John, farmer, near Pant-y-ladron, two miles east of Cowbridge, Herefordshire, reaped a field of wheat. The produce, as might have been expected, was not very abundant, nor of a very superior quality.

EXTENSIVE ROBBERY OF BANK OF ENGLAND NOTES.—Yesterday (Friday), at Bow-Street, Charles Wood, Charles Bowen, George Lake, and John Hancock were finally examined and committed for trial on suspicion of stealing £150 in Bank of England notes, the property of the Rev. Mr. Lewis, of Cardiff, at the Trafalgar Hotel, Charing Cross, on the 28th ult. Upwards of £70 has been traced.

Letters from Reikiavik of Oct. 28 and 29, state that Mount Hecla has commenced again its eruptions with renewed violence. The volumes of smoke ascended as high as 1200 fathoms. It is said that the mountain has lately disclosed several fissures. The fields have been covered with ashes, and a number of sheep have been slaughtered, as no provision existed for them. The lava had not attained any human dwelling, nor had any lives been lost.

NATIONAL SPORTS.

"Welcome the coming: speed the parting guest."

With the present notice ends our weekly glance at the games and pastimes of the year '45. It was a season memorable for many of its passages of kindness—the Sovereign setting an example of good will and good fellowship that, let us hope, was but a type of things to come. It was, beyond most that have preceded it, rife with holiday occasions, and pregnant with promise for the lovers of the boon popular sports of the land. The national games of Greece and Rome were the fruits of peace—and well it is for those to whom such a harvest is vouchsafed. What strong hands and honest hearts the labourers in such pleasant vineyards furnish for the service of the state. Wellington's aphorism about fox-hunting shall descend to posterity as a proverb; and some future Philip will begin to train his Alexander with twenty minutes' best pace over the Vale of Belvoir. It has ever been the policy, as well of the statesman as the patriot, to countenance and promote systems of public holidays and anniversary merry-makings. If we lived in the days of such subtle logicians as Socrates and Zeno, we should be slow for how much of her political repose France is indebted to the prevalence of the "Polka." We live in days of homely, household, common sense, however, —and let the few who still cling to their grandmamma's prejudices look abroad at the character of social life elsewhere (we won't be personal, fiercely as our fingers itch to be at it)—and say whether the manly spirit of our popular sports might not, in the abstract, afford a lesson that some of our neighbours might learn with advantage to their morals as well as their manners. In the social history of nations we almost always find them lapsing into effeminacy in the degree they advance in refinement. Surely, without egotism, the Englishman may claim for his country the glory of exception from this rule. From the earliest ages the games and woodcraft of Britain were celebrated for their hardy, robust character. While the sons and daughters of "the sweet South" welcomed the hours allotted from the toil of life, or selected from its leisure, with graceful measure, "to the lascivious pleasing of a lute"—our stalwart, sturdy islanders were at their trysts, as rural gladiators; or were "hunting the hart in forest green." At length "grim-visaged war smoothed his wrinkled front," and the era arrived so dangerous to manly tastes and impulses—thirty years ago there was a mighty peace established among men. With the absence of the desperate trade of war grew the necessity for an enlargement of the circle of our recreations. In that season—so fatally favourable to the growth of idle and effeminate fancies—what fashion of diversion did the taste of the youth of Britain strike out? Some downy device of ease? Some slumberous solace of luxury? No sooner was our chivalry released from duty on the wooden walls of England, than each set up his own floating pavilion; and with the peace of 1815 arose that most eminently national of all our National Sports—Yachting.

It is said that the truest test of the popular character is afforded by the popular sports of a nation. The logic of common sense leads, certainly, to such a conclusion; but, whether cause or effect, the social condition of Great Britain owes a debt of gratitude to her system of social recreations. They influence for good the propensities of her citizens—they are wholesome, morally as well as physically—and they promote as well as foster her resources. If the day should ever come when once more must be unfurled against the foe—

"The flag that brav'd a thousand years,
The battle and the breeze,"

our pleasure marine will furnish fitting recruits for our fleet—and our life for it, the result will shew, that deer-stalking in Blair Athol and a winter at Melton, were better exercises in gymnastics than the "Cellarius Waltz." Everywhere, during the past season, the pursuit of manly, gentlemanly sports, was followed with good taste, and right vigour. The catalogue retained no leaven of the reproach that once defiled it. Let it be written in the urns of 1845, that these were the Twelve Golden Rules of its recreation:—Racing, Hunting, Steeple-chasing, Yachting, Rowing, Coursing, Deer-stalking, Shooting, Fishing, Cricketing, Hawking, and Golfing.

TATTERSALL'S.

MONDAY.—A shade of improvement was perceptible in the amount of business transacted this afternoon, and two or three of the Derby nags showed a tendency upwards. Thus, 7 to 1 was not to be got about Sting, and 16 to 1, although taken to about £80 about Brocardo, was more than the layers would concede at the close. 35 to 1 was taken in hundreds about The Traverser, and 40 to 1 would have been taken about Fancy Boy; 40 to 1, in fifties, were betted against Hoorrah, and 1000 to 15 against Sheraton. For the Oaks, Vanish, Mendicant, and Sister to Flambeau, were in request; their prices will be seen below; at least, the prices taken for the backers of Vanish and Mendicant were in a decided majority. The only Chester Cup bet was 2000 to 30 against Nereus.

DERBY.		
13 to 2 agst Sting	35 to 1 agst Fancy Boy	45 to 1 agst Tugnet
15 to 1 — Brocardo	40 to 1 — Hoorrah	60 to 1 — Sheraton
35 to 1 — The Traverser (t)		
OAKS.		
9 to 1 agst Forth's lot (t)	20 to 1 agst Mendicant	30 to 1 agst Sister to Flambeau (t)
14 to 1 — Vanish (t)	25 to 1 — Osprey (t)	
20 to 1 — Cuckoo (t)		

THURSDAY.—The room closed

A NEW PLANET.

We quote the following from the *Times* of Wednesday:—
(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I have this day received from Professor Encke, of Berlin, a letter, of which I subjoin a translation. There appears to be no reasonable doubt that the object to which it relates is a new planet. As it is highly important that observations should be made with the least possible delay, I request that you will have the goodness immediately to publish this in your paper.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Royal Observatory, Greenwich, Dec. 22.

G. B. AIRY.



(Translation.)

On the 13th of December, Mr. Encke, of Driessen, gave notice that he had found a star of the 9th magnitude in a place where, before, there was none. He gave its position by reference to the star map of the Berlin Academy, 4th hour (which particular map was very carefully drawn by Professor Knorre), from which its place appears to have been—

December 8.—At 8 hours; right ascension in arc, 65 deg. 25 min.; declination north, 12 deg. 41 min.

Yesterday, Dec. 14, we sought for it with our refractor, and found, by comparison with the star map of the Berlin Academy (which alone, on account of the fulness of its details, could have enabled us to discover it), a star of the 9th magnitude, not marked in the map, whose place was—

Dec. 14.—At 6 hours 29 min. mean time, right ascension in arc, 64 deg. 4 min. 53 sec. 2-10ths. At 12 hours 43 min. mean time, right ascension in arc, 64 deg. 1 min. 10 sec. 3-10ths.

We then determined the following places with the wire-micrometer, each place being the mean of five observations:—

At 13 hours 34 min. 55 sec. and 6-10th mean time, right ascension in time

4 hours 16 min. 2 sec. 44-100ths; declination north, 12 deg. 39 min. 54 sec. 2-10th. At 13 hours 42 min. 36 sec. and 4-10th, right ascension in time, 4 hours 16 min. 2 sec. 8-100ths; declination north, 12 deg. 39 min. 53 sec. 1-10th. At 14 hours 33 min. 27 sec. and 1-10th, right ascension in time, 4 hours 16 min. 0 sec. 20-100ths; declination north, 12 deg. 39 min. 52 sec. 1-10th. Or, taking the mean—At 13 hours 56 min. 59 sec. 7-10ths mean time; right ascension in arc, 64 deg. 0 min. 23 sec. 6-10ths; declination north, 12 deg. 39 min. 53 sec. 1-10th.

The motion is retrograde, and its daily amount, as determined from the observations, 8 hours apart, is—in right ascension, 14 min. 21 sec. 2-10ths of arc; in declination it is quite insignificant.

Mr. Encke's place of December 8, agrees very nearly with this. The star is probably a new planet near its opposition. Vesta is pretty near it, and is also in opposition.

On account of the difficulty of following it, I have thought it best to send you the news directly, and I beg you to make it known in England, that a sufficient number of observations may soon be collected.

Excuse the shortness of this letter, which is written in great haste.

Berlin, Dec. 15. Yours, &c., ENCKE.
Since the above was written, a letter has been received from Professor Schumaker, giving the result of another observation made on Dec. 17th, at 10h. 28m.; the right ascension at this time was 4h. 4m. 42s., and N. declination 12d. 40m.

The position of the planet or comet will at once be seen in the accompanying Diagram: when first seen, on December 8, it was at the point marked a, being almost immediately under Aldebaran; its places as observed on Dec. 14th, and on Dec. 17th, are marked on the Diagram, and its place to day, Dec. 27, is at b.

The similarity of its motion to that of Vesta will be seen by comparing the two together; on Dec. 8, Vesta was at c, and to day it will be at d; being immediately over γ Tauri.

Blackheath,

JAMES GLAISHER.

CHESS.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—"X. T."—Your description of the position in which White draws the game is inaccurate, as he can always move the Q Kt P.

"J. H."—See the next Number of "The Chess-Player's Chronicle."

"W. B. C."—Thanks for the diagrams; which, upon examination, we find too easy for our column, though not unadapted to the series of Problems for Young Players in "The Chess-Player's Chronicle," to which, with your permission, they shall be transferred.

"H. W."—Too weak for publicity. In the first, mate can be given in two moves.

"R. S. L."—Your problem of three moves can be solved in one!

"The Captain."—It occasionally happens that, in the mass of correspondence appertaining to our paper, a letter intended for one department is sent to the head of another. This appears to have been the case with the communication to which you allude. If you will repeat the inquiries, they shall be duly answered. The solution of Problem No. 100 in your second communication is a failure.

"Homo."—There is neither justice nor gallantry in the supposition. We have the pleasure of knowing several ladies who play Chess admirably; and there are two in England who, we believe, could give the odds of a Knight to three-fourths of our male Correspondents.

"Punch."—The following, although scarcely difficult enough to demand diagrams, are neat and instructive, and have never before been published. The first is by an amateur, the second by a lady, and the last is a position which lately happened in play at the renowned London Chess Club.—No. 1. White: K at Q R 3rd, Q at her B 4th, R at K Kt sq., R at K 5th, Kt at Q R 5th, Pawns at Q B 3rd, Q Kt 4th, and Q R 4th. Black: K at Q 3rd, B at Q R sq., Kt at K sq., Kt at Q B sq., Pawns at K R 4th, K Kt 3rd, and Q 2nd and 4th. White plays first, and mates in three moves.—No. 2, by Miss M. Smyth. White: K at his 3rd, B at Q 7th, Kt at Q 6th, Pawns at K Kt 3rd, K Kt 4th, Q B 3rd, and Q Kt 5th. Black: K at Q B 4th, and Pawns at K Kt 4th, K 4th, Q B 5th, and Q Kt 3rd. White mates in three moves.—No. 3. White: K at Q Kt sq., Q at K R 6th, R at Q sq., Pawns at K Kt 5th, K B 5th, K B 7th, Q 4th, Q B 2nd, and Q Kt 2nd. Black: K at Q B 2nd, Q at Q Kt 5th, R at Q R sq., Pawns at Q Kt 5th, Q B 3rd, and Q 4th. Black had now to play, and he mated by force in four moves. This is a truly serviceable position; similar situations frequently occur in actual play, but how rarely is the same skillful advantage taken of them!

"E. F."—Plymouth.—The game is hardly interesting enough for publication.

"J. W. B."—Albany-street.—The Chess-table presented to his Royal Highness Prince Albert is likely to be useful as well as ornamental, since it is generally understood that both her Majesty and the Prince play Chess.

"Philo-Chess," Manchester.—The diagram of your problem, sent to us as far back as May last, has just been found again. It shall appear in an early Number.

"Massetto."—The Indian Problem appears on the monthly wrapper of "The Chess-Player's Chronicle."

"A Good Chess-Player."—There are two excellent Chess Clubs in the Metropolis: the "St. George's," in Cavendish-square; and the "Old London," held at the George and Vulture Hotel, Cornhill. Any person of respectability is eligible for a member, and the subscription to each is no more than three guineas per annum. With the advantages of amusement and comfort which these establishments present, it is amazing to us that there should ever be a vacancy.

"A Subscriber," Mornington, with, perhaps, have the goodness to send us the position he refers to, as we have none of the back Numbers at hand.

"Pedona."—Your amendment would admit of mate being given in less than four moves, by White's first taking the Q B P with Rook checking, and then playing Q to her Kt 7th, &c.

INELIGIBLE.—"A. Z." Tottenham; "Della," Richmond; "King's Pawn;" "S. H. G.," and "F. H. F."

"Le Pion Coiffé."—Mouret's revelations of the secrets of his prison-house in the Automaton Chess-Player were first published in "La Palamede," a Chess periodical brought out in Paris by Le Bourdonnais nearly ten years ago. We must confess his account has always struck us as imperfect and unsatisfactory, and any additional information from authentic sources will be very acceptable to us. The best way to obtain diagrams for taking down Chess positions is to have a plate engraved, and then get impressions struck from it in various coloured inks.

"J. L. R."—Received with thanks.

"Paz."—With the correct moves on White's side, it is impossible for the Black King to be played to B 2nd. Try again; if you fail, we will give White's moves.

"Mathetes."—You are entitled to claim a Queen or any other piece for every Pawn you can advance to the adverse Royal line.

"H. W."—The amended problem shall be looked to.

"T. R."—Eastworthy.—We are unacquainted with the game.

"G. W."—Chudleigh.—We made a note of the variation some time back.

"A Member of the Reading Mechanics' Institution."—The position appeared in the Chess Magazine, among the Problems for Young Players, about four months since.

Communications not replied to this week will be answered in our next.

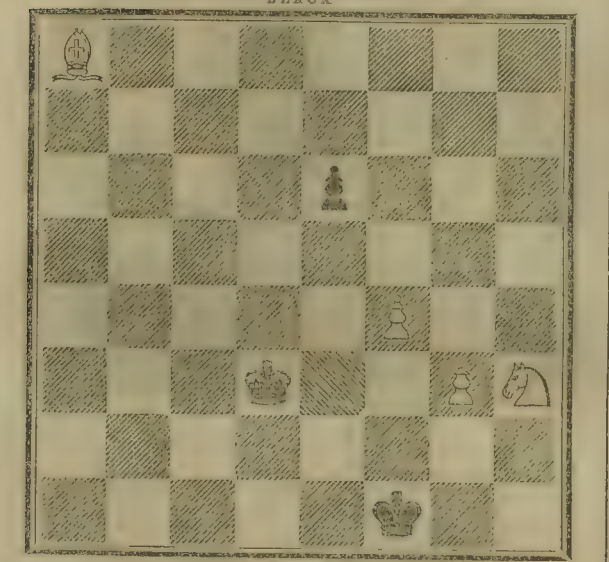
Solutions by "Gil Blas," "G. S. B.," "Marian," "H. F.," "C. H. H.," "Jobe," "Guillemus," "W. B. H.," "H. P.," "Automaton," "Old Rory," "Philo Chess," "Rory," "Dumnon," and "Pedona," are correct. Those by "W. Trimpler," "Paz," and "J. H. W.," are wrong.

* In our notices above we have given for the instruction of young amateurs three ends of games, none of them hitherto published; and, as this is especially the season for chess playing, we append also two ingenious puzzles adapted for the entertainment of the higher order of players, neither of which, we believe, has yet been made public. They are the invention of a German player, and we owe them to the politeness of Mr. Horwitz.

STRATAGEM No. 1. WHITE. K at his B 3rd, Q at K B 4th, R at K B sq, Kt at K 5th. BLACK. K at his R sq, P at K Kt 2nd. WHITE. K at his R 6th, Kt at K R 5th, B at K Kt 5th, P at K Kt 6th. BLACK. K at his R sq, R at K Kt sq, P at Q R 2nd. White having to play, undertakes to mate with his Pawn in eight moves, without taking the Rook.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM, No. 100. WHITE. 1. B to Q Kt 3rd, 2. R to K B's 8th, 3. B to K B 7th, 4. B to Q's 5th—giving mate by double check. BLACK. A Pawn is advanced, The other Pawn is played, K to K B's 6th.

PROBLEM, No. 101. BY G. D. LEEDS. White playing first, mates in five moves.



WHITE. BLACK. K at his B 3rd, Q at K B 4th, R at K B sq, Kt at K 5th. K at his R sq, P at K Kt 2nd. K at his R 6th, Kt at K R 5th, B at K Kt 5th, P at K Kt 6th. K at his R sq, R at K Kt sq, P at Q R 2nd.

GAME, No. 30. The following game has just been played between M. Horwitz and Capt. Evans, the inventor of the beautiful opening called the "Evans' Gambit."

BLACK (Mr. H.) WHITE (Capt. E.) 1. K P two 2. K Kt to B 3rd 3. Q P two 4. K B to Q B 4th 5. Castles 6. K B to Q Kt 5th 7. B takes Kt 8. Kt takes P 9. Q Kt to B 3rd. WHITE (Capt. E.) 1. K P two 2. K Kt to B 3rd 3. P takes P 4. P to B 3rd 5. Q P one 6. Q B to Q 2nd 7. B takes B 8. B to Q 2nd 9. Q B one. BLACK mated in four moves.

* There is no indulgence in the *dolce far niente* style here; the attack is begun at the opening, and kept up with undiminished vigour to the end. † P takes P would have been much better play. ‡ This, as a part of the subsequent combination, is extremely clever. § Finely played. If White had refused the Kt, the other Kt would have been moved to Kt 5th.

MUSIC.

CHORAL HARMONISTS.

Beethoven's first Mass in C was executed at the second meeting on Monday last. This great production is numbered 86, and comes within the second epoch of the musical career of this mastermind. His second and last Mass in D, Op. 123, has yet to be given in an entire form in this country, and we would strongly urge the Choral Harmonists to make the attempt, and thus to steal a march on the "slow coaches" at Exeter Hall. The Mass in C is not attended with the great difficulties of Beethoven's last work, but it is not the less distinguished by his wonderful invention. We trace in its workings that mysticism which characterizes his latter inspirations. The Morning Hymn of Adam and Eve, from Milton's "Paradise Lost" (Book 5, line 153), was another attractive item in the scheme. It was composed by Galliard, a German musician, a pupil of Marichal, Farinelli, and Steffani. Galliard came to England with Prince George of Denmark, and was appointed chapel master. He wrote a Te Deum Jubilate, &c., for St. Paul's, to celebrate the victories of his epoch, and produced the operas of "Calypso and Telemachus," "Edipus," &c. He died in 1749. Dr. Benjamin Cooke, the glee and madrigal writer, and master of the boys of Westminster Abbey, arranged Galliard's Hymn, and, as we believe, added something to the score. The soli were sung by Miss Lockey, Mr. Lockey, and Mr. A. Novello. There were some unfortunate hitches, arising from the wind instruments and other causes. The selection from Beethoven's opera of "King Stephen" was much better done. The chorus, "See with Flowers," was encoired. Cherubini's offertorium, "Laude Dominum," G. Croce's madrigal, "Cynthia, thy song and chanting," Schubert's soprano air and chorus from "Fierabras," and Spohr's tenor, air and chorus from "Faust," were included in this classical programme, Miss Cubitt, it must be specially mentioned, deserved the rapturous encore she obtained in Kücken's beautiful air, "The Mother's Song." The room was quite full. The next meeting is on the 19th of January.

SOCIETY OF BRITISH MUSICIANS.

The sixth and last Chamber Concert of the season opened with Spohr's Nonetto Op. 31, for violin (Thirlwall), tenor (Hill), violoncello (Lucas), double bass (Pratton), flute (Clinton), oboe (Calcott), clarinet (Lazarus), horn (Nicholson), and bassoon (Keating). This instrumental piece, with Weber's scena from "Oberon," sung by Miss Rainforth, were the only foreign works in the scheme, which, in the remaining portion, was English—as it ought entirely to be, in fact. The MS. Quartet Op. 9, by C. E. Horsley, for pianoforte, violin, tenor, and violoncello, was loudly applauded; there were some very happy thoughts, but the length of the first movement injured the effect of the rest. In the Andante, a quaint air was heard, in the style of some of the old English melodies. The Scherzo was spirited and original, and the finale contained a pretty theme, well carried out. It was well performed by the author and his coadjutors, Messrs. Thirlwall, Hill, and Lucas. A clever MS. Sonata in F, for piano and flute, by Henry Westrop, was performed for the first time, Miss Day being the pianist, and Mr. Clinton the flutist. The latter was quite overpowered by the too impetuous Miss Day. Mr. Clinton might have exclaimed, "O, Day! O, Night!" for he was quite eclipsed. Miss H. Groom sang a ballad—"Rhoda"—artistically, accompanied by Mr. C. Stephens, the happy composer and author. Dr. Calcott's Prize Glee, "Go, idle boy," was very well sung by Miss H. Groom, Messrs. Howe, Burdini, and W. H. Seguin, the lady taking the *alto*. Mr. Howe sang in chaste style Mr. W. L. Phillips's Canonet, "If sometimes, in the haunts of men." A song, "The Maiden's Petition," by Mr. H. Wyld, jun., given by Mr. Burdini, and Mr. W. Beale's Glee, "What Ho!" completed the vocal gleanings. Mr. H. B. Richards's spirited Quartet in D, for two violins, tenor and violoncello, summed up the instrumental gems. Mr. R. Barnett was accompanist, and Mr. C. E. Stephens the director. We are glad to announce that the Society gives four Concerts, with full orchestra, at the Hanover-square Rooms—Feb. 9, 23, March 9, 23. We shall then be enabled to hear Symphonies, Overtures, Concertos, and concerted pieces, the new productions of British musicians, and amateurs will be enabled to judge of their progress in high art.

EVENINGS WITH THE GREAT COMPOSERS.

Mr. Lincoln, on Tuesday night, at the Western Institution, treated the Mendelssohnians to a very agreeable review of the powers of that great master, on whom the mantle of Beethoven will probably descend. To the enthusiastic admirers of the Leipzig "Maestro," the remarks of the lecturer communicated nothing new; but to the masses for whom Mr. Lincoln's exertions are chiefly intended, there was much information as well as amusement. His voice is a little monotonous, but his manner is easy and unaffected. We were not startled by any novel theories, but we were gratified at his evident enthusiasm and his efficient mode of illustration. Two of those charming songs without words, that Mendelssohn has rendered so popular by his ingenious treatment, were so exquisitely played by Miss Orger and Mr. Lincoln, that both commanded encores. Miss Lincoln and Miss Cubitt and Mr. Lockey, were the vocalists. Miss Cubitt sang the air from "Paul"—"The Lord is mindful of his own," most deliciously; and she deserves the more praise, as it was undertaken at a moment's notice, in place of a Motet that was to have been played by Mr. Lincoln, the copy of which had been mislaid. The novelty of the evening was a late composition by Mendelssohn,—a Violin Concerto, executed by Herr Kreutzer, the Director of Music to the Grand Duke of Baden. The work itself is a gem—a marvellous production, in every point of view; which, when combined with the orchestra, must create an electrical effect.

The Concerto, whilst it abounds with executive intricacies, calling forth the powers of a first-rate violinist, is quite symmetrical in design and treatment. The slow movement is a gush of passion, that might have emanated from a child of Italy; and the last one is a playful rondo, as gay as a Spanish *bolero*, but elaborately Paganinisch withal. Herr Kreutzer is a great artist, and it is, perhaps, the highest praise to state that his legato playing is the best. In the chromatic scale, arpeggios, double stops, &c., he lacks certainty of intonation and delicacy; but his general tone is good, and he is essentially a poetical player, without pretension or exaggeration. He was rapturously applauded. The scheme comprised gleanings from the "Walpurgis Night," "Midsummer Night's Dream," the 95th Psalm; but Mr. Lincoln had a refractory chorus to deal with, and we pitied him for his palpable agony when there was a hitch. He accompanies with excellent discretion and feeling, and deserves every success for his laudable exertions to promote the cultivation of a refined taste.

"L'ETOILE DE SEVILLE," BY BALFE.

We have received two letters from Paris, describing the reception given to Balfé's new opera in four acts, the *libretto* by M. Hypolite Lucas, represented for the first time, Dec. 17, at the Académie Royale de Musique. Our Correspondents differ in their accounts of the performance, the one declaring it to be most triumphant, the other affirming it to be equivocal. The truth we take to be between the two extremes, and there can be little doubt that our native composer may fairly boast of a legitimate success. The drama is adapted from Lope de Vega's "La Estrella de Sevilla." The plot is interesting. Estrella is beloved both by the King of Spain and Don Sanchez, the Cid of Andalusia. The Monarch, in his dishonourable attempt to see the heroine, is struck by Bustos, her father, whom he challenges at the instigation of the Cid. The latter, however, to protect his King, fights Bustos, and kills him. He is arrested for the murder, and ascertains that he has fought the father of his beloved. Estrella is equally in despair, having taken active steps for the punishment of her father's slayer. Eventually, just as the lovers are about to die together, Estrella is discovered not to be the daughter of Bustos, but the King's natural sister. Of course the hands of the Cid and the "Star of Seville" are then united by the repentant Monarch. Madame Stoltz enacted Estrella, and on all hands it was agreed that the last two acts were sustained by her energy and feeling. Gardoni, the tenor, was the Cid; Barolliet the King; Mdle. Nau, Zaida, a Moorish slave; and Bremond, the basso, Bustos. The *mise en scene* was superb, and the *divertissement* attractive. Gardoni and Barolliet have pleasing airs in the first and second acts. Mdle. Nau has a pretty melody. A trio, duets between Gardoni and Barolliet, Stoltz and Gardoni, are highly spoken of. It is stated that Mr. Bunn has engaged to adapt it for Drury-lane Theatre, with Madame Thillon in the principal part. It is not generally known that this singer made her *début* in Paris in Donizetti's "Lucia," and that her tragic powers were as much admired as her subsequent efforts in the "Opera Comique."

OPERAS AT DRURY-LANE THEATRE.

Mr. Macfarren's opera of "Don Quixote" is in rehearsal. Allen will be the tenor, and Miss Rainforth the *prima donna*. Mr. Stretton is to enact *Sancho Panza*, and Mr. Weiss *Don Quixote*. It will be brought out early in January. We regret to learn that Mr. Benoit, who has experienced great difficulties in the production of his new opera of "The Crusaders," arising from the pretensions of the singers. The cast was intended to include the entire strength of the establishment, and it may be imagined that the exigencies of two *prima donne*, two tenors, and three basses, were not to be easily satisfied. As peace has been restored, we shall not enter on the details that have reached us, but we strongly advise artists to recollect that in Paris petty ambitions and paltry caprices are not allowed to disturb a manager in efficiently casting an opera. Even the colossal Lablache, the greatest singer in the world, has not hesitated to take subordinate parts to render an *ensemble* perfect. Genuine talent can never fear degradation by this course; it is the impostor who calls out for extraordinary indulgences. The character, forsooth, must make him, and he must not make the character.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.

Handel's "Messiah" was repeated at Exeter Hall, on Tuesday night, the attendance, as usual, being immense. There were no encores, although the oratorio went better. Mrs. Sunderland evinced improvement in her style of singing. Mr. Phillips sang splendidly. Miss M. B. Hawes was labouring under severe indisposition, but her artistic skill carried her through successfully.

THE ROYAL BOUNTY.—Her Majesty's Royal charities to upwards of 1,000 poor and aged people were distributed in Whitehall on Monday and Tuesday last, by Mr. Joseph Hanby, secretary and yeoman, under the immediate orders of his Grace the Lord Archbishop of York, Lord High Almoner. The Royal charities consisted of small donations of 5s. and of 1s. to each person who had been previously selected from recommendations of the clergy, nobility, and gentry. The number of applications from blind and disabled persons exceeded all former precedents.

DEATH OF THE CLERK OF QUEEN-SQUARE POLICE-OFFICE.—Mr. R. Edwards, many years the chief clerk of this court, expired at his residence in Green-row, Chelsea, rather suddenly, on Tuesday evening. Mr. Edwards was in his forty-eighth year.

MUSICAL REVIEW.

ENGLAND, THE LAND OF THE FREE, AND A NEW CHRISTMAS SONG. Written and Composed by George Tolhurst. Blackman.

WHERE THE FLOWERY KNOLLS INVITE, NEW FAIRY GLEE. Composed by J. Stone. Williams.

These patriotic and seasonable effusions—the latter in two flats three four time, and the former two sharps six four measure—are chiefly remarkable, as regards the combination of poet and composer, but neither the words nor the music rise above the average quality of such inspirations. As first productions they are creditable. The glee is written in a Coleridgean spirit, and is good, the second movement particularly, which is a flowing cantabile. The *alto* part, being florid, would require a good singer. The composer is organist to Tottenham Church.

THE MUSICAL BIJOU. D'Almaine and Co.

So far as decorative art, this work may be pronounced to be perfect. It is, indeed, a most elegant present for the fairer portion of the creation. The illuminated frontispiece, border and subject, copied from "Le Roman de la Rose," Harl., 4425, is an extraordinary specimen of printing in colours. Mr. Brandard having drawn and lithographed the illustration. The title, border and subject, are also illuminated, and from the same source, "Le Roman de la Rose," the joint poetical production of Guillaume de Lorris and Jean de Meun. He must be a fine penman who will dare inscribe the name in the elegant presentation plate; but, as "faint heart ne'er won a fair lady," there will not be wanting "bold captains" to advance beyond the flourishing "To."

The splendours of the Harleian collection have been marvellously re-produced in this brilliant volume; but, whilst we thus render full justice to the magnificence of the ornamental portion, we wish we could conscientiously eulogise the musical contents of this costly work. There are fifty vocal and sixteen instrumental pieces; but although we find the names of Sir H. R. Bishop, Mr. E. J. Loder, Linley, Rodwell, S. Nelson, Crouch, Hutton, A. Lee, Knight, Fitzwilliam, Hewitt, &c., amongst the composers in the former category, there seems to be a general lack of inspiration, as if the writers had been under the withering influence of taskmasters. Writing to order is not the best incentive to genius amongst musicians. Many of these vocal *moreaux* come under the denomination of "pretty;" but, to speak frankly, we find rarely a gem in melody—the trite and the common-place abounding in undue proportion. A real *bijou*, however, Sir H. R. Bishop's ballad, "The birds which sang so sweetly," in four flats. There is exquisite pathos in the melodious inspiration worthy of the fame of the writer. The "Death of Dermot" by Crouch, is calculated for popularity, albeit not an original conception. Mr. Hutton's song of "My first love and my last" will delight the sentimental young ladies who believe in that doubtful theory. The poetry, in some instances, is quite awful; we dare not quote, for the cases are too numerous and desperate. We forgive the want of imagination and the honied nonsense, but we have the right to bargain for grammar. The instrumental department is decidedly better. Musard, Auber, and Czerny are always safe. Mr. Linter is potent in polkas, Chaulieu has a clever song without words, and Charles Glover has a smart arrangement of one of Pacini's *motivi*. There is no doubt that the "Musical Bijou" will have its place in the elegant drawing-room redolent of seasonable sweets.

GOODMAN'S MUSICAL GAMES. J. A. Novello.

This invention is most ingenious. Let the clever author explain his own intention:—"Deeply impressed," he says, "with the idea that if a species of amusement could be contrived, particularly for young persons, as an auxiliary to the study of so important a branch of musical knowledge, its utility might become apparent in the creating a more genuine taste for the beautiful and sublime productions of the great masters of the art, the author, nearly twenty years ago, made the attempt; but, becoming perplexed in the formation of the cards, so as to make them sufficiently simple for general application, it was then abandoned, and the MS. laid by. A recent discovery of this MS. has, however, induced him to make a fresh attempt, and the present plan—having for its principal object that of enabling all those who do not consider themselves adepts in the art, to join in an agreeable pastime for mutual edification, is the result."

The pack consists of 52 cards,—two each of the three C's; three each of the six notes, D, E, F, G, A, B, upper octave; four each of ditto lower octave; with four diagrams numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4. There are seven amusing as well as instructive games, to be played with this pack, as invented by Mr. Goodman, namely, a round game of Notation; one for Keys or Scales; a third of Diatonic Intervals for two or three tricks; a fourth (a round game) of Time or Value of Notes and Rests; one of 2 or 4 tricks, for Harmony or Fundamental Chords; one of Fundamental Sounds, for two by tricks; and finally, the Rule of the Octave, for two or four by tricks. Mr. Goodman, of Canterbury, is known as the author of Violin and Pianoforte Instruction Books, and other musical works. He has a son resident in London, who is a Violoncello performer, and a composer. The rules and directions of Mr. Goodman are lucid and terse, and his introductory explanation of the principles of Music is well written. Altogether, these games are admirably calculated to achieve their object—instruction, as well as amusement; and we entertain no doubt that the plan, as Mr. Goodman states, is suggestive of many additions and extensions.

THE MUSICAL TREASURY. DANSON.

The volumes for 1846, consisting of 224 pages beautifully got up, with an embossed title page, is now before us. It would be a most elegant present for Christmas or the New Year. There are nearly 70 pieces, including four overtures, with vocal pieces by the best masters of the ancient and modern school. Taste, taste, and judgment have been displayed in the various gleanings.

"GENERAL TOM THUMB."

This renowned Dwarf, or, as he is termed, "the American Man in Miniature," has just returned from France, to give "a few Farewell Levees," before quitting this country for New York. We were sorry to learn that he was so unwell as to be unable to appear at his usual place of exhibition, the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, on Wednesday last. We then paid him a visit, and found him suffering from a severe cold, from which he has since recovered.

Scarcely any exhibition within our memory has excited such interest amongst all circles, as "The General," Charles S. Stratton. He was born at Bridgeport, Connecticut, U. S., Jan. 11, 1832; and is, consequently, now very nearly thirteen years old. He is 25 inches high, and weighs only 15 pounds; his head scarcely reaches to the knees of a person of ordinary stature, and is about on a level with the seat of a common chair. He has a light complexion, light hair, fresh coloured cheeks, dark eyes, well developed forehead, good mouth, and great vivacity of expression.

"The General" first exhibited at Barnum's Old American Museum, in New York, where he is stated to have been visited by 30,000 persons; gentlemen of distinction invited "the General" to dine with him; ladies came in their carriages to see him, bringing valuable presents; and he was, for six weeks, the lion of New York. He next visited Philadelphia; and, in nine, made the tour of the States.

On Jan. 19, 1844, he left New York for England, and was escorted to the ship *Yorkshire*, in which he sailed, by 10,000 persons. Immediately on his arrival in London, "the General" called at our office; and the first portrait of him, taken in this country, will be found in our Journal for Feb. 24, 1844; together with a notice of his performances at the Princess's Theatre.

On Saturday evening, March 23, "the General," accompanied by his guardian, Mr. Barnum, had the honour of attending at Buckingham Palace, and afforded much entertainment to her Majesty, Prince Albert, the Dukes of Kent, and the Royal Household, by his extraordinary intellectual display. His quick replies to the various questions put to him by the Queen elicited great astonishment.

On Tuesday evening, April 2, "the General" repeated his performances before her Majesty, when also were present the Queen of the Belgians, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal, and Princess Alice, their respective suites, and a distinguished party. At the conclusion of the entertainment, her Majesty the Queen presented to "the General" a superb souvenir of mother-of-pearl, set with rubies, and bearing the crown and the Royal initials, "V. R." In addition to this splendid gift, the Queen subsequently presented "the General" with a gold pencil-case, and complimented Mr. Barnum, his guardian, on the aptness of his pupil.

On Tuesday, April 16, "the General" had the honour of appearing, for the second time, before her Majesty Queen Adelaide; his Grace the Duke of Cambridge, the Duchess of Gloucester, and other distinguished visitors, at Marlborough House. Her Majesty was graciously pleased to present "the General" with an elegant watch and chain.

"The General" had the honour of appearing before the Queen, at Buckingham Palace, for the third time, on Friday, April 19. He was dressed in a full Court Suit, and elicited the approbation of Her Majesty and Prince Albert, also of their Majesties the King and Queen of the Belgians, Prince Leiningen, and other distinguished visitors.

On these occasions, the little fellow sang a comic song, written by Mr. James Morgan, of the Imperial Hotel; introducing the Royal personages; to the national American air of "Yankee Doodle."

In the autumn of last year, "the General" appeared in London, in an elegant Dress Chariot, built for him: the entire equipage will be found engraved in No. 122 of our Journal. In February of the present year, "the Little General" visited Paris, and his little equipage appeared at Longchamps, in the great procession at the Champs Elysées. "The General" was soon summoned to the Tuilleries, repeated his visits, and received many costly presents from King Louis Philippe, the Queen, Princess Adelaide, the Comte de Paris, &c. He engaged the elegant Salle des Concerts, Rue Vivienne, and his Levees for four successive months were crowded. After his Evening Levee, he appeared for seventy successive nights in a play, called "Petit Poucet," written expressly for "the Little General," and in which he was very successful.

"The General" afterwards made the tour of France and Belgium; and, while at Bordeaux, made a dash into Spain, and had the honour of appearing before Queen Isabella, the Queen Mother, and Court, then assembled at Pampeluna. At the great Bull fight there, "the General" appeared in the Royal box, with the Queen.

On his return to Paris, in November last, he appeared again before the



GENERAL TOM THUMB, AS FREDERICK THE GREAT

King, Queen, and Royal Family, at the Palace of St. Cloud, and again brought away sterling testimonials of the Royal favour.

We may here mention, by way of explanation, that the story of "the General," having been stolen by brigands (which appeared in the French newspapers some time since) was, altogether, a mistake, originating in "the General's" luggage being stolen from behind his carriage, while travelling between the towns of Quimper and L'Orient.

The performances of this extraordinary little person have repeatedly been noticed in our Journal. Among these entertainments are "the Grecian Statues," "Cupid with wings and quiver," "Samson carrying off the gates of Gaza," the "Fighting Gladiator," "The Slave Whetting his Knife," "Ajaz," "Discobolus," "Cincinnatus," "Hercules with the Nemean Lion," &c. His imitation of "Napoleon," in his manner, gait, "taking snuff," and several of his well known attitudes, is good. Another of his favourite characters is that of "Frederick the Great," in which our artist has represented him.

We understand that "the General" will leave London for the North, on Monday; and, after a tour through Scotland and Ireland, will return to New York.

THE LATE EXPLOSION AT BOLTON.

We have received from a Correspondent at Bolton, the following details of this frightful catastrophe. Our Correspondent adds: "many erroneous statements have appeared in the papers; but I vouch for the correctness of what I send you, as an eye-witness."

It is only a few months ago since this town was thrown into the utmost state of consternation by the explosion of a boiler at Mr. Brooks's linen-mill; but that occurrence was trifling as to the fatal effects produced by it, when contrasted with what took place here on Monday last, at the cotton factory of Messrs. Rothwell and Kitts, adjoining the station of the Bolton and Leigh Railway, in Black Horse-street. Under the west end of the mill were three steam-boilers—the

centre one a low-pressure boiler, and the other two were high-pressure; one of the latter was not working at the time, in consequence of undergoing repairs. Exactly at ten minutes past one o'clock, the centre boiler exploded, and blew up the whole of the building, four stories high, over the boilers. The noise occasioned by explosion was not very loud, but the expansion of air occasioned by it, caused such a concussion and vibration, that every house in the neighbourhood was shaken, the windows broken, and a boy, in a house opposite to the boiler, was scalded to death. At Mr. Lowe's, the Flag Inn, which is upwards of three hundred yards distant, the spirit-sample bottles were thrown out of the window; and the inhabitants of the neighbourhood generally were so alarmed, in consequence of the shaking of their dwellings, and the overthrow of various articles, that they imagined it was an earthquake, and ran into the streets in the utmost state of alarm. The workpeople employed in the mill amounted to about ninety, and the majority were in it at the time. They were seen rushing towards the windows, and breaking them and the frames to effect their escape; and, at the same time, mothers, fathers, and relatives were running in the greatest state of agony and despair towards the scene of destruction.

After the consternation had subsided a little, Mr. Edward Rothwell (nephew of the late Mr. Rothwell) was found dead, a portion of the building having fallen upon him: and Mr. Kitts, one of the partners, was taken out of the engine-house, much scalded. Mr. Peter Greenhough, the manager of the mill, who has left a wife and eleven children, seven of whom are unable to provide for themselves, was also discovered dead in the engine-house. Mr. Frederick Hoskin, a young gentleman who was learning the business, was found under the ruins alive, and, when taken out, it was found that he was much injured on one of his legs, by a stone falling upon him. The feelings of the populace on the spot were raised to the highest pitch by the cries of several poor creatures who were under the flooring, which had fallen, fortunately, against the opposite building; but as it was covered with such an immense heap of bricks and other rubbish, it was evident that some hours must elapse before they could rescue the whole of them. Every effort was now made by all present and about four o'clock they

had so far succeeded as to enable them to give relief to a youth, who for some time had been crying out for tea or water, and at six o'clock he was taken out of the ruins; a female was also rescued soon afterwards.

Up to Wednesday morning the bodies of the following ten individuals, were taken out of the ruins:—Mr. Edward Rothwell, Mr. P. Greenhough (Manager), Alice Edge, Thomas Mort, Alice Hampson, Priscilla Scholes, Eliza Coulston and Agnes Coulston (sisters), Mary Allen, and Mark Winder. Nine other individuals received injuries of various kinds; but, we are happy to say, that they are all likely to recover.

An inquest was held before John Taylor, Esq., the Coroner, in the Borough Court, on Wednesday morning. A highly-respectable body of gentlemen were upon the jury; and, after the necessary evidence, to prove the identity of the deceased parties, had been gone through, the Coroner adjourned the Court to afford time to produce the evidence of Mr. Fairburn, of Manchester, and other scientific gentlemen, as to the cause of the accidents, and to bring up witnesses that are injured.

When the Jury met again, the opinion of Mr. Fairburn was taken, and, after some other evidence had been given, the Jury returned a verdict of "Man-slaughter" against Thomas Kitts, one of the partners in the concern. Since the day of the accident four other persons have died of the injuries they received, so that the total number killed is, up to this time, 14.

It is with pleasure we state that it was announced by the Coroner at the inquest, that the Mayor of Bolton, Stephen Blair, Esq., and numerous other gentlemen, had resolved upon making a subscription for the immediate relief of the widows and orphans of the unfortunate sufferers. We give a sketch of the scene, after the explosion, executed by Mr. Robston.

FASHIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

The costumes for this season of the year, though necessarily sombre and somewhat heavy in appearance, are nevertheless perhaps more becoming than those of any other time to the fair wearer; for the dark colours and thick materials which are alone appropriate in the midst of frost and snow, by contrast heighten their charms, and give an air of increased delicacy to the complexion and to the figure; and the fashion which now prevails for furs may be traceable to their knowledge of this effect. Velvet and cashmere, also highly in vogue, are perhaps of all others the most advantageous materials for a lady's dress. The latter in plain colours, is, and always will be, highly elegant. These dresses are trimmed with buttons of steel or marcasite, or embroidered. Silk is still worn for morning dresses; but it must be of rich texture and deep full colour. Those with a pattern are the most *recherché*. Trimmings of velvet, gimp, or buttons are indispensable; the latter, however, at present carry the palm.



FASHIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Brocade silks are much in vogue for evening wear, and justly, for they are equally splendid and becoming; no trimming is usually employed for these dresses, which are made with full corsages and rounded points. This style of bodices is now almost universally adopted for morning and evening dresses; berthes of the same material as the dress, trimmed with effilés, are, however, also much in favour. For net or tulle dresses, the body is often made with pleats laid on, and surrounding the top of the dress; the sleeves are made with epaulettes, trimmed with bouffants of tulle. Double shirts are universally abandoned; but the dress for evening wear is frequently made to open in front, disclosing the silk or satin shirt beneath, and looped at the side with bouquets and long ends of ribbon. The shirts are worn very full. Velvet dresses still maintain their ground for evening wear; they are trimmed in front with bows of ribbon, and silk or steel buttons.



FASHIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

For out-of-door covering, furs, as we have before said, are universally adopted. The accompanying plate gives a specimen of the ermine capes now in vogue, which, when worn over a silk or cashmere dress, have a highly elegant effect; a muff, in the same fur, being almost indispensable. The mantelet, in dark satin, trimmed with a deep border of sable, and a cape of the same, is also highly elegant as well as becoming. We wish we could say that the reign of the paletots was completely past. They appear again in new shapes and forms, but preserving that type which is so essentially inelegant and unbecoming. They are now made longer than formerly, with pockets towards the front of the skirt, much in the fashion of the vestment of the same name worn by the ruder half of the human creation; they are embroidered in braid, or trimmed with gimp. Surtouts, in velvet, wadded, and trimmed with fur, gimp, or lace, are much in vogue, as well as the large cloaks in satin, trimmed with ermine or velvet, which are the most appropriate, and, therefore, the most really elegant garments for out-of-door wear.

As to bonnets, since we published our last bulletin of fashions, there is nothing new to mention, but that the so much abused *Pamela* is gradually coming more and more into vogue. The favourite material is velvet, or velours epingle, and the ornaments chiefly consist of feathers, large flowers in dark colours, or thick rosettes in velvet and black lace.



SCENE AT BOLTON, AFTER THE LATE STEAM-BOILER EXPLOSION.

THE THEATRES.

LYCEUM.

On Saturday evening, a version of Mr. Dickens's new Christmas book, "The Cricket on the Hearth," dramatised by Mr. Albert Smith, from early proofs of the work, furnished to him by the author, was acted for the first time, and with the most complete success; indeed, it is long since we have witnessed such enthusiasm as that evinced by the audience upon the fall of the curtain.

Long before this notice comes into the hands of our readers, the greater part of them will, we expect, have read the delightful little book in question; or, if they have not, the plot may be found in another part of our Journal. It is not, therefore, necessary for us here to repeat it, but merely to notice the manner in which its various characters were represented by the members of the Lyceum company, to which *corps* its *dramatis personæ* were admirably adapted. Indeed, it would almost appear, as the *Times* remarked, that Mr. Dickens had its representation at this house in his eye when he wrote the work. The cast was as follows:—*John Peerybingle*, Mr. Emery; *Tackleton* (the toy merchant), Mr. Meadows; *Caleb Plummer*, Mr. Keeley; *The Stranger*, Mr. F. Vining; *Dot*, Mrs. Keeley; *Bertha*, Miss Mary Keeley (her first appearance on any stage); *Tilly Slowboy*, Miss Turner; *Mrs. Fielding*, Mrs. Woolledge; *May*, Miss Howard; and the *Fairy Cricket*, Miss Dawson. The acting of everybody concerned was so admirable, that it is difficult to say of whom we ought first to speak; in galantry, however, we will commence with the ladies. Miss Mary Keeley, the *débütante*, is a young lady of fifteen; and, from the favourable impression she created on Saturday, will, we augur, become a star of no ordinary magnitude. Her features are extremely pleasing and expressive; and when, at the conclusion of the piece, upon being called before the curtain, we were permitted to see her eyes, which she had kept closed whilst playing the part of blind *Bertha*, we found them as bright and intelligent as her mother's, and this is the highest compliment that we can pay to them. Her voice is sweet, and capable of nice modulation; and she betrayed throughout her personation of the part a perception and stage tact which could hardly have been looked for in one so young. Mrs. Keeley's *Dot* was perfection: we never saw her in a part in which she appeared to be so completely at home. Her busy, bustling, affectionate manner in the first "chirp" or act, and her anxiety in the last one—the little pantomime scene in which she comes and seats herself on her little stool at the feet of her husband, who has been sitting up all night at his dreary hearth—and the volubility and earnest haste with which she pours forth the explanation of her apparently equivocal conduct, as soon as she finds herself at liberty to do so—were inimitable. We are convinced, in these points, there is no actress now upon the



MR. KEELEY AS CALEB, AND MISS M. KEELEY AS BERTHA.

stage who can approach her. Miss Turner deserves great praise for her clever impersonation of the foundling, *Tilly Slowboy*. She looked the character of the foundling handmaiden to the life, and quite acted up to her appearance. Her "Ow if you please don't!" convulsed the audience with laughter every time she uttered the phrase. The speech of the *Cricket* from the hearth was a very graceful piece of declamation by Miss Dawson, for which she was warmly applauded. Mr. Emery's *Peerybingle* fairly took the house by surprise by its excellence. His powerful acting never degenerated into rant, but was throughout intense and judicious; and, in the interview with *Tackleton*, wherein he explains his intentions with regard to his wife, he was frequently compelled to wait until the plaudits of the audience had subsided. Mr. Keeley played with much pathos and truthfulness as *Caleb Plummer*, and Mr. Meadows was as gruff and uncomfortable as *Tackleton* could possibly be supposed to be. Mr. Frederick Vining had not a very great deal to do, but what he did assisted much towards forming a perfect *ensemble*. The curtain fell amidst loud and prolonged cheering, and when the principal characters appeared before it, a shower of bouquets were flung to the fair young *débütante*. Then the audience set up a cry for Mr. Dickens and Mr. Albert Smith. The former gentleman was stated not to be in the house, but the latter bowed his acknowledgments from a private box; and then, we believe, in their enthusiastic excitement, they would have had everybody on over again had they had breath enough to call for them. As it was, the impression in the house was that "The Cricket on the Hearth" will prove the greatest hit yet made by this fortunate management. The house was completely crowded, and every box occupied.

FRENCH PLAYS.

The favourite *artiste*, M. Lafont, took his benefit at the St. James's Theatre, on Wednesday last. The performances consisted of "Clementine," "Le Hocket d'une Coquette," "Père et Fils," and a play, performed for the first time at this theatre, entitled "Jean, ou le Mauvais Sujet," being a painful though faithful portrait of the mishaps of a young scamp, and his subsequent reformation. There has been no greater favourite with the *habitués* of this house than M. Lafont, whose performances we have had occasion so often to notice. He is, we believe, to remain in London until the engagement of Madame Albert, in order to unite his talents with those of that charming actress.

ADELPHI.

An admirable translation, by Mr. Charles Selby, of an effective French drama, "Un Changement de Main," was brought out here, on Tuesday evening, under the title of "The Lioness of the North," and achieved a perfect success. By the "Lioness" is meant the Empress Elizabeth of Russia; and upon situations rising out of her tyranny and somewhat questionable temperament the plot of the piece is founded. It is, in every respect, an "Adelphi" piece *par sang*, and was listened to with intense interest by a very crowded audience, who were most liberal in their applause, both during the piece and at the conclusion, when it was announced for repetition every evening, amidst renewed cheering. It was well played by Madame Celeste, Messrs. Webster and Wright, and Miss Ellen Chaplin, and promises to enjoy a fair run, especially with the forthcoming novelties to back it up. The original drama was performed in Paris, if we mistake not, at the Gymnase Dramatique.

THE CHRISTMAS PIECES.

Last evening nearly every theatre in the metropolis produced its pantomime or burlesque entertainment. By the courtesy of the authors and artists of five of the pieces, we have engraved a scene from each, sketched from the rehearsals.

DRURY LANE.

The adventures of Mr. Lemuel Gulliver form the subject for the Christmas entertainment at this house, done from the popular chronicle by Mr. Morton. The subject has been once or twice dramatised, but it has reappeared under an entirely different form. And when we say that the important part of *Gulliver* was entrusted to the hands of Mr. W. H. Payne, some idea may be formed that it was very funny. The first scene is the Interior of Guildhall, and we have a dispute between *General Tom Thumb* and *Gog and Magog*, which is settled by the *Genius of Pantomime*, who brings forward the subject of her entertainment, and discovers *Gulliver* (Mr. W. H. Payne) high and dry upon a rock, having been shipwrecked. His wife, *Mrs. Gulliver* (Mr. Hance), is in the same predicament. The Flying Island, represented in our Engraving, now appears, and takes *Mrs. Gulliver* up, whilst her spouse goes down, and at low water is found by the astonished Lilliputians. Meanwhile, *Mrs. Gulliver* arrives at the Palace of Laputa; and, in the Hall of Science, becomes acquainted with the King of Laputa (Mr. T. Matthews) and the Lord High Chancellor Parallelogram (Mr. Howell). She tells them how she has lost her husband, and the Flying Island is forthwith placed at her disposal to find him with. During this interview, *Gulliver* has made himself quite at home with the Lilliputians; and all the most remarkable events that characterised his stay in that remarkable country are vividly represented, even to his dinner, at which the little people were so much astonished, and his towing in the Blefuscan Fleet. The action then passes on to Brobdingnag,



SCENE FROM "THE CRICKET ON THE HEARTH," AT THE LYCEUM THEATRE.

with all its monster wonders, including babies, birds, prize pigs, and kittens; and finally *Mrs. Gulliver*, in the Flying Island, finds out her husband, and leaps therefrom into his arms. The *Genius of Pantomime* then appears, and the transformations take place, the Harlequinade being supported by Mr. Wieland as *Harlequin*, Mr. T. Matthews as *Clown*, Mr. Howell as *Pantaloon*, and Miss Hicks and Miss Lonsdale for *Columbines*. And then the excitement begins in Coventry-street, Piccadilly; after which we have a Railway Steeplechase to the Board of Trade, with all sorts of wonderful adventures in grocers', fishmongers', wine-merchants', tinmen's, and glass shops; until all eyes are directed to the City of Cologne, as it appeared on her Majesty's arrival, with a grand *tableau* of which the pantomime concludes.

The pantomime was quite successful, although it will require curtailment. The opening is the funniest we ever witnessed—so funny, that it militated seriously against the "comic" business.

After the transformations, Payne, as *Gulliver*, was glorious. The scene of the evolutions of the Lilliputian army drew down thunders of applause, especially when Payne stood on the two sentry boxes and allowed the troops to march under his legs. The Laputa geometry was not so quaint as Dean Swift has made it, and the introduction of *Mrs. Gulliver* is by no means an improvement on the history. The palace on fire, and the taking of the fleet, were well contrived, and the children worked like Trojans. The Brobdingnag nursery caused one continued explosion of hilarity. The opening scene, with *Gog and Magog's* dispute with *Tom Thumb* as to the respective attractions of giants and dwarfs, also obtained much cheering. The stretching of the *Clown's* body to an inordinate length, and his being tossed in a blanket, told uncommonly well. The Railroad Crash, displayed by the falling of an entire scene, and discovering a mass of ruins, "kicked" up a real dust, for the audience were almost suffocated. The Scrip, Stags, &c., came, of course, into derision.

The crowning joke was a bill, on which was inscribed "What to Eat, Drink, and Avoid." This, by the wand of *Harlequin*, was changed to Roast Beef and Triple X, to eat and drink, and the words, "Avoid Norfolk Curry." There was too much of the hackneyed matter of pantomimes in the latter portion; but, with judicious pruning, the fun will tell better. The last scene was magnificent. It was the City of Cologne illuminated, copied, apparently, from our illustration of that fairy event. Wieland as *Harlequin*, T. Matthews as *Clown*, and Howell as *Pantaloon*, exerted themselves strenuously. Matthews had to sing "Hot Codlins" and "Tipetywitchoot" on the call of the galleries. The house was crammed to excess, and the episodes of one or two fights and a merry criticism on the opera of "Maritana," were not wanting—in fact, the fun before the curtain sometimes rivalled that of the stage. With Payne's *Gulliver* and the Lilliputians, the Pantomime will be a hit.

LYCEUM.

The story of Prince Firouz, Schah of Persia, and his flying steed, from the "Arabian Nights' Entertainments," has furnished Messrs. A. Smith and Kenney with the groundwork of their new burlesque at this house; and they have also availed themselves of some situations from the following story of "Prince Bahman and Prince Purves," combining both in "The Enchanted Horse." The piece opens with the halt of a caravan of Persian *liveries* in the Great Desert, on its way to the Schiraz Association for the Advancement of Science. Whilst the

savans are asleep, *I-wish-you-may-get-it*, an Ojibbeway Indian, or, the *Downey Bird* (Mr. Keeley), who is travelling with a show, tries to get up an audience, but fails, and, in his desperation, beats in his drum, which releases the *Afri* (Mr. Collyer), a Djinn, or evil spirit, who has been imprisoned therein by Solomon. He tells the *Indian* that, if he can find a maiden as a sacrifice, he shall get his freedom, and presents him with the Enchanted Horse, to assist him in his search. The *Indian* strikes a bargain, and departs for Schiraz, where the Persian Association is being held, for the Advancement of Science in general, and gastronomy in particular. Here, the President, *Prince Firouz Schah* (Mrs. Keeley), comes in, in great state, driving a young locomotive, and proceeds to exhibit all the wonders of the Exposition to his father, *Babbar Schah* (Mr. F. Matthews), his sister, *Maimouna* (Miss Villars), and his visitor, *Dost Cherool, King of Bengal* (Mr. Turner). The *Indian* arrives with his horse, and wants to "chop" it for the *Princess*; but *Firouz* learns the secret of making it go up, by turning a peg behind its ear, and, jumping on it, is carried up and away, to the astonishment of everybody. We next find him in the heavens, at night, and alone. Here he meets the *Lost Pleiad*, and an Irish agitating constellation, *O'Rion* (Miss Howard and Mr. Silver); and finally discovers the peg that will get the horse down again, which he has hitherto been unable to find. The horse shies, and *Firouz* tumbles through a skylight, in the palace of the *Princess Chinsurah* (Miss Hodson), who is about to be married to *Shaul Sing* (Mr. Wigan), *King of Cashmere*, whom she does not like. A case of love at first sight is accomplished; and, whilst the *Cashmerian King*, who is musically inclined, is about to serenade his mistress with a monster concert, *Firouz* flies off with her upon the horse; and the first act concludes. In the second, we find *Babbar Schah* mourning for his lost son, of whom he has heard no news since he flew away. He condemns the *Indian* to be tied to a tree, and devoured by wild beasts. This is accordingly done, when he is released by the *Afri*, who contrives to steal away *Chinsurah* when she arrives with *Firouz*, and conveys her to "Castle Perilous." The adventures of the *Prince*, his *Sister*, and *Shaul Sing*, to recover the *Princess of Bengal*, form the business of the act; and she is ultimately recovered, through the aid of the *Peri Queen* (Miss Arden); and all are made happy.

The piece is got up on a scale of great splendour, and written in verse, filled with jokes and allusions to passing topics. Our illustration shows the *Prince* in his rapid act of air-oss-tation through the heavens.

A want of previous arrangement was, however, visible in the stage business and, from the actors feeling embarrassed on this point, they did not give the jokes with that emphasis which is necessary to make them tell with the house. The piece also will bear freely cutting, but this is easily done. Mrs. Keeley was evidently suffering from over-work, but played with astonishing spirit. Her description of the various wonders at the meeting of the Association was loudly applauded. Keeley was very droll as the *Indian*. He nearly met with an accident in the last scene; when he was coming up a trap with two of the *corps de ballet* the ropes below gave way and he was let suddenly down. He, however, reappeared immediately afterwards unhurt, and was warmly cheered. Mr. Collier as an *Afri* or *Sprite*, and also as a Monkey, displayed great activity, and the horse was a capital piece of mechanism. A beautiful phantasmagoric effect of the enchanted courser bearing off the *Prince* and *Princess* at the conclusion of the first act got a hearty round of approbation, and the curtain ultimately fell amidst applause, not allowed by any rounds less agreeable to the dramatist. The house was densely crowded.



SCENE FROM THE NEW PANTOMIME OF "THE KEY OF THE KINGDOM," AT THE PRINCESS THEATRE.

EVENING MELODIES.

The *Journal des Débats* states that the iron suspension-bridge in construction at Chaussin (Jura) had been entirely carried away on the 9th of December by the extraordinary rise of the waters.

But try me when such scenes
Of brilliant joy are o'er,
What time you alcove screens
A group of three or four,—
And though the magic light
That leaves those eyes so jet,
May not be then so bright,
'Tis far more lovely yet!—
On some dear social eye
"Neath Heaven's own quiet blue,
Oh, let me come and weave
A wreath of flowers for you!

And should the fearful night
Of bitter grief come on,
And they whose smiles were bright,
Whose words were wit, be gone,—
Should hours of festive glee
To cheer dawn and day,
Yet dawn no more to thee,—
Oh try me, try me then!
But deem not that this heart
Blue needs be cold and dull,
Unfit for any part
In such that's beautiful! R. R. S.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT LIVERPOOL.—The district of Toxteth park, Liverpool, was, on Thursday, the scene of a dreadful accident. Liverpool has for some time past been badly supplied with water, and large tanks were erected in various places, with a view to improving the supply. One of these, situate in Water-street, Toxteth-park, and containing 1600 tons of water, elevated some twelve feet above the level of the street, burst on Thursday at two o'clock, spreading destruction on every side, attended with serious injury to many individuals. One old woman was dragged out of the cellar of a public house at great risk to those who ventured to her assistance, but their aid came too late. Eight houses in Rock-street, which runs at the back of the Water-works' premises are partly demolished; and it is feared that there are several persons in the cellars of these houses, to whom no help whatever can be rendered, the influx of water to these apartments rendering it impossible for them to escape with life. The house at the corner of Water-street and Rock-street is in a most dangerous state, and must come down. It is in too dangerous a state to be approached, and with it a smaller house attached will be a heap of ruins—making ten houses, occupied by some fifty-five individuals, all of them in a low class of life—industrious, hard-working persons. Two men, two women, and one child, have been dug from the ground story of the ruined houses. The injuries to two at least are likely to prove fatal. It is supposed there are yet several more in the ruins, and every exertion is being made to rescue them. To render assistance is, however, a work of considerable danger. The water has forced its way from the front to the back of the houses in Rock-street, leaving the upper parts hanging together like an ill-cemented arch, and liable to fall at any moment.

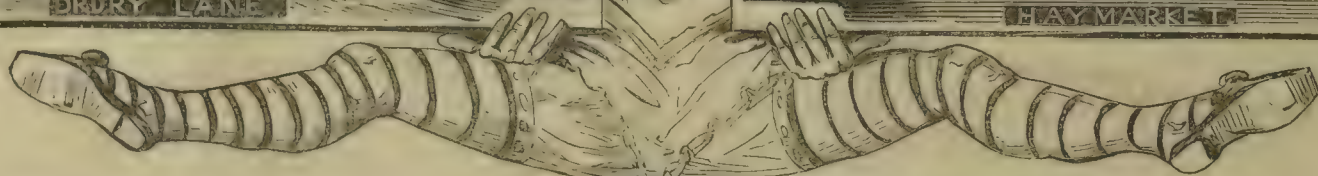
has improved from 30½ to 4, to 31½. The announcement of Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co., that the Buenos Ayrean Government had suspended the remittance on account of the dividends, caused no change in the value of the Stock, which closes at 40. *Chilensis*, 57½. *Porto* 100.

LECTURES selected for this period of the year, by Dr. RYAN and Professor BACHHOFF, in CHEMISTRY and NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, will be illustrated by interesting and brilliant experiments. A LECTURE on the PREVALENT DISEASE in POLAND, will be delivered by Dr. RYAN, and also on the ATMOSPHERIC RAILWAY, by Professor BACHHOFF. In addition, a working model of which, carrying several Persons, is exhibited here. The additions to the OPAQUE MICROSCOPE, dissolving VIEWS,

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THE PANTOMIMES

Alfred Crowquell



DESCRIPTIVE HISTORY OF THE LAWS RELATIVE TO THE IMPORTATION AND EXPORTATION OF CORN.

[The following History is from the pen of a gentleman who is perfectly acquainted with the "facts" of the subject; and is, we believe, written as impartially as possible for an opponent of Protective Duties. Although we cannot altogether coincide in the views of the writer, yet we consider that our readers may glean from this brief History a correct narrative of the most interesting subject now before the British public.—Ed. I. L. N.]

From the earliest ages, the production of corn and its commercial exchange have engaged the attention of legislators and statesmen. In ancient Egypt the Kings were accustomed, on public occasions, to evince their respect for agriculture by the semblance of going through some farming operation. We find, from the monuments, that accurate returns were made, by the Royal officers, of the amount of grain produced in every harvest, and that public granaries were established, to secure regularity of supply, and remedy any unexpected deficiency. The administration of Joseph, during the seven years of plenty and seven years of famine, is too well known to require comment; it is sufficient to observe, that the principle of public storehouses appears, from the narrative, to have been established at an earlier period, and to have been only enlarged by Joseph to meet a special exigency.

Tyre is the next state of which we possess some commercial information. The barren rocks of Phœnicia could not produce sufficient grain for the support of a dense population, and hence, the Tyrians were mainly dependent for their support on foreign supplies. We learn, incidentally, that they obtained large quantities of grain from Palestine, and that the mutual interests which grew up under this system of exchange kept the two nations at peace during the entire period of their independent existence.

The Athenian Republic affords a still more signal example of a community depending on foreigners for an adequate supply of the necessities of life. So early as the period of the Persian Invasion ships were freighted with corn for the Athenian Harbour of the Peiræus from the countries bordering on the Black Sea: it is a singular instance of the permanence of commerce that the exportation of corn from these countries continues to the present day. During the Persian War armed galleys were stationed in the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles to guard the corn ships on their passage, and, during the whole continuance of the Athenian polity, one of the main objects of those entrusted with the administration of foreign affairs was to secure and preserve the friendship of the Thracian Princes, whose dominions commanded the narrow seas through which the corn trade passed. But the coasts of the Euxine were not the only places from which the Athenians imported corn: they derived large supplies from Syria, Egypt, Western Africa, and, more especially, from Sicily.

At first the interference of the State with the Athenian corn trade appears to have been confined to securing a safe passage for the grain vessels by furnishing them with convoys; but, at an early period, the exportation of agricultural produce of native growth was strictly prohibited, and only one-third of the corn imported from foreign countries was allowed to be re-exported. It is obvious that the object which such legislation aimed at was to render corn artificially cheap by making it artificially abundant, and, consequently, the purpose of the Athenian Corn-Laws was directly the reverse of the system which prevails in modern Europe. Unfortunately we have not the means of ascertaining the whole of the results of the Athenian system, but enough is known to show that the restrictions on re-exportation prevented the Peiræus from becoming the great market for grain to the rest of Greece. When prices in Attica were low the merchants sent their vessels to Corinth, or to some of the ports of the Peloponnesus, where commerce was at least comparatively free, and thus Attica was at once stinted in its supplies, and deprived of the profits of transfer.

The same ignorance of the natural laws of commerce was manifested in the severe enactments against engrossing and forestalling; it was ordained that no man should keep more than fifty loads of corn in store at a time, and that no one should receive more than a fixed and very moderate rate of profit on his sales. These regulations threw the corn trade out of the hands of the respectable merchants, who could not endure to be harassed by spies and informers, and transferred this important branch of commerce to foreign adventurers and speculators, who constantly evaded the law by every species of fraud and artifice. The attempt to make corn unnaturally cheap too frequently rendered it unnaturally dear, and the State was often compelled to make large sacrifices of revenue in order to remedy its original blunder.

The Roman Corn-Laws had nothing commercial in their character; the State took upon itself the charge of supplying the people with grain, and for this purpose it levied corn-rents and grain-tributes on all the colonies and subject countries. There is, however, no trace of any interference with private enterprise; merchants were allowed to import corn as they pleased, for the great object was to obtain an adequate supply. But, notwithstanding all the vigilance of the State, Rome was frequently visited by famines and dearths even in the most flourishing periods of the empire, and the State was exposed to imminent danger from its failure to fulfil the obligations which it had unwisely contracted. The errors of the Roman system belong more to the vices of the political constitution both of the Republic and the Empire than to a preposterous violation of the laws of economic science; the great trading cities of the Empire were allowed to follow their own course without interference; while Rome withered under excess of protection, the trading towns of Gaul, Southern Italy, and the Levant flourished under perfect Free Trade.

The invasions of those whom, with little discrimination, we are accustomed to stigmatise as the Northern barbarians, were more injurious to the landed proprietors than to the mercantile communities. It would lead us too deep into discussion, and too far away from our subject, to investigate the state of commerce in the dark ages, else we could show that sounder views of trade were entertained by the Goths and Vandals, who took common sense for their guide, than by the Romans and Byzantines, who sacrificed every principle to the narrow policy of selfishness. We shall, therefore, turn to the history of our own country, and examine the course of legislation on the supply and sale of grain.

Our earliest Corn-Laws were designed to secure an abundant supply of food to the people, at a moderate price, and, for this reason, they were all directed against exportation, which was absolutely prohibited by the statute of Edward III., in 1390. The natural result of this law was to diminish the growth of corn; the produce of 1390 having been sold at a price too low to yield profit to the cultivators, a smaller breadth of land was sown in 1391, and the amount of tillage was still

less in 1392. Edward was not slow in discovering the mischievous result of his legislation, and in 1393, the King's subjects were permitted to export corn where they pleased, and were only prohibited from supplying the King's enemies. In 1436, however, exportation was only permitted when the price of corn averaged 6s. 8d. or under, at the place of shipment. This law appears to have led to many frauds in striking the averages: it injured the farmers by restricting their markets; it injured the consumers by discouraging the raising of an abundant supply; but it afforded the chances of large gains to the speculators, who, in fact, acquired the chief command of the market. It is for this reason that we find corn-dealers so severely treated by many of our old historians, and stigmatised as engrossers, forestallers, and regraters. Legislative interference had substituted an artificial for a natural market: the dislocation of the course of trade produced a corresponding change in the character of the traders, and they were condemned for adopting a course into which they had been absolutely forced by the laws themselves. In the scant notices of trade which are found in the early chronicles, it is not always easy to discover the precise cause of popular complaints; but the statute of Edward III., already mentioned, had reserved a power of prohibition to the Government. "Nevertheless," it declares, "the King wills that his Council may restrain the said passage (of corn) when they shall think best for the profit of the realm." This reservation afforded unworthy favourites and greedy Ministers an opportunity for trafficking in prohibitions and licences, of which they seem to have largely availed themselves; for the preamble to the statute of Henry VI. complains bitterly of the restrictions on exportation; "for cause whereof farmers and other men, which use manurement of their land, may not sell their corn but of a bare price, to the great damage of all the realm." This is, we believe, the first legislative notice of the manurement of land; and it argues a great advance in economic science to have skillful cultivation set forth as a strong argument for free trade in grain. The English farmer of that day, relying on his own superior management, was so far from fearing foreign competition, that he sought permission to meet the foreign producer in his own markets.

The first known law against the importation of corn, is a statute of Edward IV., A.D. 1436. The preamble states, "Whereas, the labourers and occupiers of husbandry within this realm be daily grievously endamaged by bringing of corn out of other lands and parts into this realm, when corn of the growing of this realm is at a low price;" and it is then enacted that no corn shall be admitted until the price at the place of import exceeds 6s. 8d. per quarter. At this price, exportation was permitted, and importation was prohibited, so that speculators had a double temptation to gambling in fraudulent averages. Legislation totally failed in producing anything like steadiness of price. In the interval between 1416 and 1463, the price of corn varied from 2s. to 16s. per quarter.

In 1534, we have an example of a Corn-Law setting forth sound principles in its preamble, and forthwith contradicting them in its enactments. This strange example of "free-trading in the abstract," sets forth that, "Forasmuch as dearth, scarcity, abundant market, and plenty of victual happeneth, riseth, and changeth of so many and divers reasons, that it is very hard and difficult to put any certain prices on such things;" after which reasonable statement it empowers the Lords of the Council to fix the prices at which farmers shall sell their commodities. The greater part of the legislation of the 16th century was directed against the rapid rise of prices which then took place, and as corn never descended below the rate fixed by the statute of Edward IV., its prohibitory clauses were imperative, and the importation of corn was practically free.

Early in the seventeenth century, A.D. 1603, the importation of corn was prohibited until the average price had reached 26s. 8d. per quarter; and this average was raised by successive statutes, until, in 1670, importation was virtually prohibited. The statute 22nd Charles II., c. 13, imposed a duty of 16 shillings per quarter on foreign wheat when the price in this country was under 53s. 4d. per quarter; when above this average, and under 80s., the duty was 8s. per quarter; when above 80s., importation was free.

At no period of history was the rage for protective and prohibitory duties carried to such an extravagant excess as in the reign of Charles II. As an illustration of the absurd lengths to which the system was extended, we may mention the history of the law against the importation of black cattle from Ireland, which is equally amusing and instructive. The attention of the English House of Commons was called to the alarming fall of rents, consequent on the war with Holland, and all the ingenuity of statesmen was employed to account for this depreciation. The cause, indeed, was sufficiently obvious; foreign trade had been wantonly sacrificed, and home trade having declined in consequence, the farmers lost their best customers—the manufacturing consumers of agricultural produce. But this was too simple an explanation to be received, especially as it would have condemned the course of policy pursued by the Administration, and it was gravely declared that all the distress of England was caused by the importation of lean cattle from Ireland! The agricultural mind was deeply moved by this profound discovery; petitions against the obnoxious animals were presented to the King and Parliament in countless abundance; and a bill prohibiting their admission was introduced into the House of Commons. Its progress was arrested by the speedy termination of the Session; and the Great Fire of London, which took place about the time, seemed likely to divert attention from the subject. But the dispute about Irish cattle survived the flames, and even derived strength from the conflagration. When the news of the calamity was received in Ireland, the Irish resolved to send a present of cattle to relieve the sufferers. The faction of the Duke of Buckingham, who chose to represent the agricultural interest of that day, averred that this benevolence was only an insidious mode of introducing the dangerous cattle; the popular clamour became louder than ever; a bill, declaring the importation of Irish cattle a nuisance, passed the Lower House with wondrous unanimity, and was sent up to the Lords. It was proposed to alter the word "nuisance" into "detriment and mischief," whereupon a fierce debate arose. Lord Arlington insisted that "nuisance" should be retained; Lord Ashley proposed that importation should only be deemed "præmunire or felony;" Lord Clarendon, with more wit and as much reason, moved that it should be held "adultery." Finally, the bill passed with the "nuisance" clause, and its result was that the Irish found better markets in France and Spain than those from which they had been excluded in England.

We have the high authority of Roger Coke to prove that this specimen of legislation for agricultural protection to corn and cattle totally

failed in effecting its intended object. Writing in 1671, the year after the imposition of the prohibitory duties on the import of corn, he says, "The ends designed by the acts against the importation of Irish cattle, the raising of the rent of lands in England, are so far from being attained that the contrary hath ensued." He adds, what is confirmed by other contemporary writers, that much land was thrown out of cultivation in consequence of the change.

We can easily explain the cause of this result, which the protectionists had not anticipated. There is no more common and no greater mistake than to confound high prices with high profits. If high prices are the result of a high cost of production they will leave but a small margin of profit for the producer. Now, the restrictive laws of Charles II. greatly increased the cost of production to the farmer; they took away the profit he might have derived from fattening the Irish lean cattle, the supply of manure which he might have obtained from the same source, and the demand for articles to be exported to Ireland in exchange; on the other hand, they increased the cost of his seed and the price of the food of his labourers. There must be a previous outlay of grain to obtain a harvest of grain; the outlay is expended in seed and in the feeding of labourers and cattle; but when, by artificial means, the amount of this outlay is increased, the power of the farmer to cultivate is proportionally diminished.

The cheapness of wheat, which so alarmed the legislators of 1670, was, in fact, producing the most beneficial effects to the farming interests, by raising the standard of food among the poorer classes; they are described in contemporary publications as "traversing the markets to find out the finest wheats, for none else would now serve their turn, though before they were glad of the coarser rye-bread." Here, then, was an opportunity of introducing the best possible system of agriculture, in which, the inferior grain being applied to the feeding of cattle, abundant manure could be obtained to raise the finest wheat for the use of man. Prices, so far from being sustained by the new act, varied from 46s. to 27s. 7d. per quarter; there were no importations, but exportation was permitted at a nominal duty.

Such was the state of affairs at the period of the Revolution; and the gentlemen who represented the landed interest were exceedingly perplexed by the discovery that protection had not brought them any of the advantages which they had anticipated, but had in fact increased the evil which it was designed to remedy. Instead, however, of retracing their steps, they made a desperate plunge in advance, and introduced a system of bounties on exportation. In 1689 a bounty of five shillings per quarter was given on the exportation of corn, when the price in the home market did not exceed 48s. per quarter. We find it stated in the Report of the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons in 1821, that the amount of export bounties paid out of the public revenue between 1679 and 1773, reached the sum of £6,237,176—a tolerably heavy payment made by the people of England for the privilege of eating dear bread.

Between the years 1715 and 1765 there were only five deficient harvests, and the price of wheat rarely ranged above 35s. per quarter; indeed, for ten years, the average was only 29s. 3d. It has been remarked by Malthus and others, that though the price of provisions fell during this period, the rate of wages steadily rose. What was saved in expenditure on provisions was spent in the employment of labour, and hence all our historians describe the reign of George II. as the period of the greatest social enjoyment in England. The laws against importation were imperative during the whole of this time, for the prices in the English market were lower than those of the Continent, and exportation would have continued even if the bounties had been withdrawn.

Soon after the accession of George III., a series of bad harvests produced general distress; the quarter loaf rose to eighteen-pence in London; addresses, complaining of increasing misery, poured in from all parts of the country; exportation was prohibited by Royal proclamation, and strict orders were issued for enforcing the laws against forestallers and regraters.

The prohibition of exportation was repeated in the following year, and also in 1770 and 1771. In 1772, the ports were opened for the admission of corn duty free; and in 1773, the Corporation of the City of London offered a bounty of 4s per quarter for the importation of 60,000 quarters of corn between the months of March and June. These fluctuations and vicissitudes led many to reflect on the impolicy of legislative interference with the natural supply of provisions to the people; and several able tracts were published, advocating the removal of restriction on import, and bounties on export, as being equally contrary to the laws of sound policy and the dictates of common sense. In 1772, an act was passed removing several vexatious restrictions; and the preamble contains the following remarkable declaration in favour of the principles of Free Trade. It says, that the statutes proposed to be repealed "by preventing a free trade in the said commodities (corn, flour, cattle, &c.) have a tendency to discourage the growth and enhance the price of the same, which statutes, put into execution, would bring great distress on the inhabitants of many parts of this kingdom." This is a gratifying evidence of the progress which sound principle had made; there was, however, a very powerful party which still clung to the delusions of the protective system—while the thorough free-traders were men of the closet, possessing little political influence, and content to see their doctrines gradually working their way on the public mind.

Circumstances were so favourable to a fair consideration of the relative claims of producers and consumers, that the Government determined to prepare a permanent Corn-Law, and they succeeded in passing an act, which lasted longer and worked better than any Corn-Law before or since. In the preparation of this law the leaders of the Opposition are said to have laboured conjointly with the Members of the Administration, and both sought not the best possible system, but that which seemed the best possible to be obtained under existing circumstances. It was neither zealously supported nor vehemently opposed; all parties were heartily tired of the recent fluctuations and the irritating disputes to which they gave rise; and on all sides there was an obvious disposition to a reasonable compromise. The importation of corn at the nominal duty of 6d. per quarter was allowed when the price of middling British wheat was at, or above, 48s. per quarter; exportation and bounties ceased when the price fell to 44s. per quarter; foreign corn was allowed to be warehoused in England, and to be re-exported free of duty. The admission of foreign corn to the home market was thus granted on very favourable terms; but the imports were so steady that they produced very little effect upon price. There were, however, occasional murmurings from the old advocates of protection; but these were quieted by conceding some alterations in the

system of taking the averages—alterations which, it must be confessed, were, in most instances, very desirable improvements.

The greatest defect in the act of 1773 was the fixing of the pivot price so high as 48 shillings per quarter—a price far above the average of the preceding half century, and calculated entirely from the years of recent scarcity. A higher fixed duty, placed on a much lower average, would have better answered all the purposes of the Government; it would have given a wider scope to commercial enterprise; it would have enabled the English farmer to calculate with more precision his chances of competition with the foreign producer; and it would have added considerably to the revenue—a matter of great importance at a time when questions of revenue were about to plunge the nation into a destructive war.

After a very careful examination of the debates and private letters of the period, we are forced to the conclusion that there were parties who assented to this act as a permanent settlement, with the secret determination of effecting a change at the earliest opportunity. This, indeed, is nowhere avowed explicitly, but we find frequent complaints of the nation being rendered dependent on foreigners for its supply of food, and numerous remonstrances on the necessity of giving greater encouragement to the home production of agricultural returns. The cry for protection to native industry was principally raised by Mr. Fox and his immediate followers, of whom Burke alone seems to have fully adopted the principles of Free Trade; but this was an age in which the obligations of party had so completely overwhelmed the duties of principle, that we can hardly quote parliamentary speeches as evidences of real opinion.

In 1787 a discussion took place in the British Parliament, involving every principle in which Corn-Laws are founded, though these laws were not so much as named from the beginning to the end of the debate. We allude to the debate on Mr. Pitt's commercial treaty with France, the greatest advance to the recognition of free interchange of commodities, as the best security for preserving the harmony of nations, which is to be found in the world's history. Pitt was, on this occasion, opposed by Fox, and the great body of the Whigs, who dwelt strongly on the old national hostility between England and France, and on the illusory advantages expected from the Methuen Treaty with Portugal. But the most remarkable speech delivered against the great commercial treaty was that of Mr. Grey, the member for Northumberland, who subsequently, as Earl Grey, did more than any other statesman to counteract the opinions which he then enunciated. A few short years sufficed to place the parties in the very opposite positions: Pitt and his followers being the vehement assailants of France—Fox and his adherents professing themselves the friends of that country. This debate left consequences behind it, which those by whom it was sustained could not have been supposed to anticipate. The Free Trade doctrines of Pitt were very imperfectly understood by his supporters among the country gentlemen, while the appeals of Fox to their hereditary prejudices found a ready echo in their bosoms. The Minister was unwilling to risk power for an abstract doctrine of political economy, and his rival had precluded himself from exhibiting the danger to which the best interests of the country would be exposed by reviving the old notions of extravagant protection. The Minister was dependent on their support; the leaders of the Opposition were committed to their principles, when the advocates of agricultural protection carried the Corn-Law of 1791, probably the worst of the many bad laws which have ever been passed, to restrict commerce, in the supply to a nation of the necessities of life.

The law of 1791 enacted that the bounty on exportation should be paid when wheat was under 44s. per quarter, and that all exportation should cease when it reached 46s. per quarter. This enactment was a dead letter; for, during the ten preceding years, wheat had been above the average when a bounty was admissible. The real object of the law was to prevent importation, and, for this purpose, it was ordained that, when wheat was under 50s. per quarter, it should be subject to the "high duty" of 24s. 3d. per quarter; between 50s. and 54s., to the first "low duty" of 2s. 6d. per quarter; and above 54s., to the duty of 6d. per quarter. Of course, the duty on wheat when the price was under 50s. per quarter, amounted to an absolute prohibition. The average price of wheat in the ten years ending 1779, was 45s., and in the ten years ending 1789 was 45s. 9d. per quarter. The excess of importation over exportation during the entire twenty years was about 660,000 quarters, a quantity not likely to produce any perceptible effect upon the markets. During this period of comparatively Free Trade, agriculture improved most rapidly, and, in spite of the disasters of the American war, the financial condition of the country indicated both prosperity and stability.

The design of the law of 1791 was to prevent, or at least to put a very severe check on the importation of foreign corn. We have seen that, under the more equitable law of 1773, the excess of imports over exports was very trifling; but, under the act of 1791, confessedly designed to prevent any excess, the imports overbalanced the exports in the thirteen years from 1791 to 1803, to the amount of about six millions and a half quarters of wheat and flour. Under the liberal system the average annual import was about 30,000 quarters; under the exclusive system it nearly reached 500,000 quarters. But this was not the only or the worst evil arising from the revival of the protective system. These imports were obtained at the cost of enormous sacrifices, and brought the nation to the very verge of destruction. In January, 1795, the average price of wheat was 55s. 7d., but in August it had risen to 108s. 4d., and the evils of famine were felt through the length and breadth of the land. Mr. Pitt acted with more promptitude and firmness than he had evinced in 1791: Parliament was assembled in October, and the Royal Speech mentioned the high price of grain as a subject of the greatest anxiety. Acts of Parliament were hastily passed, offering large bounties on the importation of wheat, until the quantities received reached the amount calculated to cover the deficiency, which was loosely estimated at rather more than a million of quarters. There was something supremely ridiculous in thus offering a bribe for the import of the corn which so short a time before had been excluded by a virtually prohibitory duty; and it is obvious from the debates that the Minister bitterly felt the degradation of the position which he occupied. But the matter had become too serious for ridicule. The corn-growers of the Continent, excluded from the English markets by the law of 1791, had of course made no preparations for such an unexpected event as the sudden opening of the ports; there was no surplus to spare in Europe; and the selfish tendency of our policy was not likely to incite to any generous impulses. In the exigency of the moment neutral vessels laden with grain were seized on the high seas, and the masters were forced to sell their cargoes to the agents of the British Government. Protection had to be supported by piracy. The excitement in the country was extreme, and there is reason to believe that Pitt wished to take advantage of it to return to a more liberal policy in the Corn-trade, but he was dissuaded by his colleagues: and, instead of diminishing protection, he imposed a tax on hair-powder to lessen the consumption of wheat!

The violent passions excited by the French Revolution, and the fanaticism of those who looked to organic changes in the Constitution as a remedy for social evils, combined to render a discussion of the Corn-Laws on the naked ground of principle utterly impossible. It is unjust to throw all the blame of the calamities that occurred on the Administration of the day; their opponents deserve just as much blame, and the nation itself, which remained passive during the crisis, or was only active on matters totally unconnected with the evil, deserves more to be blamed than either. Something, however, may be pleaded in excuse. So long as a bounteous Providence, by sending good harvests, defeats the artificial legislation designed to produce high prices and scarcity, the operation of the Corn-Laws is not felt, and few trouble their head about their operation; when, however, these protections and prohibitions come into operation, their stringency increases so very rapidly as to overwhelm men with the dread of immediate famine, and lead them to seek an immediate, rather than a prospective remedy. Free trade would not have saved the nation in 1795; it would only have averted the recurrence of a similar calamity in future years; but men were too eager to avert immediate ruin to think of providing against prospective dangers.

In 1799, another and more extensive failure of the harvest occurred; wheat rose from 49s. 6d., in the beginning of the year, to 94s. 2d., at its close. Bounties were again offered, but no preparations had been made to meet this unexpected demand, and very little corn came in. Prices continued to advance, and in June, 1800, wheat was quoted at the average of 134s. 5d. the quarter; in consequence of some considerable importations, it fell to 96s. in August, but the harvest of 1800 having also proved deficient, it advanced to 133s. in December, and in March, 1801, it averaged 166s. 2d. per quarter. Universal misery was the result; but the landlords were cheered by the prospect of raising their

rents, and those tenants who had leases began to speculate on enormous profits. Mr. Tooke, in his admirable work on the history of prices, insinuates that the landlords, as a class, and the tenants who had leases, did actually derive immense gains from the public calamity. Having very carefully scrutinised the records of the period, we are convinced that both these classes suffered by the famine, as well as the rest of the community, and that advantages were only reaped by a few fortunate individuals. These exceptional cases, however, lured the classes to which they belonged into a course of policy which has not yet been abandoned. They persuaded themselves that high prices must, of necessity, produce high rents and high profits, and reasoned themselves into the belief that the interests of consumers were the last thing to be considered—if, indeed, they would allow them to be considered at all—in protective legislation. Abundant harvests in 1801—2, and 3, brought down prices; in the beginning of 1804, wheat was only at an average of 49s. 6d. Meetings were immediately held, to demand additional protection to agriculture, and there were some circumstances which disposed the influential parties to lend a favourable ear to such a proposition.

Notwithstanding the enormous advance in the price of food in 1801, the wages of labour had not been increased in anything like the same proportion, and, in most instances, no addition whatever was made to the pay of the agricultural labourer. But the salaries of persons holding official situations under the Government had been raised, and it was feared that if bread became cheap they would be brought back to their former level. Hence the protectionists had very powerful support when they applied for the revival of the Corn-Law of 1791 early in the session of 1804. It is not uninteresting to consider the reasons assigned for rendering the Corn-Laws more stringent, by the Parliamentary Committee appointed to consider the claims of the agriculturists. They state, that the "price of corn from 1791 to the harvest of 1803 had been very irregular; but, upon an average, increased in a great degree by the years of scarcity, had in general yielded a fair profit to the grower." Here they set out with a confession, that steadiness of price, one of the greatest of the professed objects of Corn-Law legislation, had been found quite unattainable—that the prices with which alone they would be content must include years of scarcity in the calculation of their averages; and that the miseries of unsatisfied consumers are nothing when compared to the securing of fair profit to the grower. Assuredly, never before was such a candid document submitted to the world as the basis of what is called protective legislation. The Committee goes on to say, "The casual high prices, however, have had the effect of stimulating industry, and bringing into culture large tracts of waste land, which, combined with the two last productive seasons, has occasioned such a depression in the value of grain, as it is feared will greatly tend to the discouragement of agriculture, unless sustained by Parliament." The grammar of this oracular sentence is much on a par with its reasoning; but the matter is too weighty for verbal criticism. It makes all the difference in the world whether a healthy or an unhealthy stimulus be given to industry: the duty of a legislator is not simply to see that labour is employed, but that it is profitably employed; labour forms part of the national capital, and when it is unprofitably employed, there is just so much of the national capital wasted. Yet there are men who write and speak as if it would be equally advantageous to employ labour in building an Egyptian pyramid as in constructing an English railway. The value of labour to a country must be estimated, not by the amount of the labour expended, but by the value of the results obtained. Now if we examine the Report of the Committee, we shall find that their own arguments demonstrate the impolicy of their own demands, for they declare that industry had been stimulated to an excess of production which could not remunerate the producer unless supported by Parliament. This actually was the fact,—the prizes obtained by a few fortunate holders of corn during the time of high prices, produced a mania for agricultural speculation just as insensate as the railway speculation of the past year; ground was taken at exorbitant rents; corn was sown in soils utterly unfit for tillage; the production of wheat was supposed to be an operation analogous to coining, and the result was such an excess of supply over demand, as at once to produce a rapid fall of price. It would have been the part of wise men to ask that the stimulus to such unhealthy production should be removed; the very terms of their own Report showed that the system of protection had rendered the growing of corn a mere gambling speculation; but yet, with short-sighted cupidity, they assigned these obvious evils as reasons not only for the continuance, but even for the extension of the protective system.

By the new Corn-Law the "high duty" of 24s. 3d. was to be paid when wheat was under 63s. per quarter, the first "low duty" when wheat was at 63s. and under 66s., and the nominal duty of 6d. when wheat was above 66s. per quarter. Thus, the free import or nominal duty price which had been fixed at 48s. by the law of 1778, had been raised to 54s. in 1791, and to 66s. in 1804, taking a stride of six shillings at one period, and of twelve shillings at another! It has been well said that protective cupidity, like other species of appetite, grows by what it feeds upon. The bounty of 5s. per quarter on exportation was to be paid when the average price of wheat was at or under 48s. per quarter, and when the average rose to 54s., exportation was to be prohibited. These two provisions of the act remained inoperative; and the legislators intended that they should be a dead letter. Before we come to examine the operation of this act, we may mention that in 1806 a law was passed, permitting the free interchange of every species of grain between Great Britain and Ireland. Thus, Ireland, which had been previously treated as a colony, was placed on an equality with the rest of the United Kingdom.

The crop of 1804 proved deficient; prices began rapidly to rise towards the close of the year, and the legislators complacently assigned this change to the operation of the new act, instead of attributing it to the dispensations of Providence. Wheat, which had been sold at 49s. 6d. the quarter in March, rose to 86s. 2d. in December. These great fluctuations in price were very injurious to the manufacturing and operative classes, and might have been ruinous, had not the continental wars prevented the growth of any rival industry. During the next three years the crops were rather above than below the average: but all the harvests of the five years between 1808 and 1813, were very deficient; indeed, that of 1812 was almost a total failure, both in quantity and quality. In the August of that year, the average prices were—for wheat, 155s.; barley, 79s. 10d.; and oats, 56s. 2d. Mr. Tooke, to whose accurate History of Prices, we have been largely indebted, informs us that samples of the best Dantzic wheat were sold in Mark-lane for 180s., and that oats, in one or two instances, were sold at the enormous price of 84s. per quarter.

The double extravagance of the protective system, which is designed to produce artificial scarcity, but which, when that scarcity approaches the pressure of a famine, compels us to import food at any cost and at all hazards, was frequently shown during this period. In 1810 we imported the great quantity of 1,500,000 quarters of wheat and flour, and 600,000 quarters of other grain and meal. This fact is worthy of remembrance, as being, in a remarkable degree, illustrative of the axiom that no difficulties interposed by a Government are adequate to prevent the transmission of goods to a profitable market. A large proportion of the foreign grain at that time imported was brought for consumption to this country from France; it was actually the produce of the soil of our most bitter enemy; and it surely should be sufficient for us to call to mind this fact, coupled with the remembrance of the deadly character then assumed by the contest between France and England, to be convinced that, so long as we possess the means of paying for the food which other countries can spare, we never shall be without an adequate supply of the necessities of life.

There was a very large quantity of corn smuggled into English ports as Irish produce during this period, which was really the growth of foreign soils; the large fortunes made by the speculators dazzled those who were not in the secret, and greatly increased the public delusion respecting the profitable nature of a protected trade. There are no means available for calculating the extent to which this illicit trade was carried, but we have reason to know that more corn was imported into England from Ireland in a single year than the Irish soil could possibly produce in three.

Mr. Porter, in his valuable work on the Progress of the Nation, justly remarks that some abatement must be made in the estimate of these high prices on account of the depreciated state of the currency at the period. He says, "The average price of wheat in 1816 was 103s. 3d. per quarter; but this rate, owing to the then depreciated state of the currency, was not equal to more than 90s. if paid in gold. In 1812 the price advanced to 122s.; but the depreciation of the currency was

then still greater, and the real price was not above £5 per quarter." This range of high prices, owing to a cycle of deficient harvests more than to any other cause, had been of such unusually long continuance that both landlords and farmers began to speculate upon its continuance. In too many instances they calculated on an average of produce sold at the prices of scarcity, and as a great amount of gain had been really distributed among the agricultural classes, it was difficult to convince them that their dream of prosperity was a mere delusion. Between 1809 and 1813 rents rose with unexampled rapidity; men totally unfitted for such an avocation, quitted the branches of industry to which they had been trained, and turned farmers, and this competition gave a fictitious value to land, which could not possibly be sustained when the return of average harvests reduced prices to a more natural level. After the abundant crop of 1813, the price of wheat fell to 73s. 6d. per quarter, and the harvest of 1814 being also favourable, the averages fell to 53s. 7d. per quarter. This depression of prices happening at the time when hostilities had been brought to a close, was very generally ascribed to the transition from war to peace, a cause which really produced a very trifling effect on the market. Agriculturists attributed their distress, not to the mistaken basis which they had taken for the calculation of their probable remuneration, but to the foreign competition likely to arise from the restored tranquillity of the continent, and the consequent increased facilities of intercommunication.

A Committee of the House of Lords was appointed to consider the whole question of the Corn-Laws. It recommended that the importation of corn should be absolutely prohibited so long as the price of wheat was under 80s. per quarter; so that protection, which had taken 48s. for the pivot point in 1773, after having advanced to 54s. in 1791, and 66s. in 1804, now took a further increase of 14s.; and, even with this amount, many ardent protectionists declared themselves dissatisfied, requiring that the ports should not be opened until the average price of wheat reached 96s. per quarter. The bill for giving effect to these recommendations was deferred to the ensuing year, but an act was passed abolishing the entire system of bounties and permitting the free export of corn at all times.

We come now to the year 1815, from which it is too much the fashion to date the history of the Corn-Laws, for the causes which led to the legislation of that year can scarcely be understood without a previous investigation of the course of previous legislation on the subject. At the beginning of the year the average price of corn was 60s. per quarter, and, as the averages were steadily rising, it was manifest that the pivot point fixed by the law of 1804, that is 66s. per quarter, would be soon reached when the ports would be thrown open for the admission of corn at a nominal duty. Under these circumstances a bill was introduced by Mr. Frederick Robinson, now Earl of Ripon, to give effect to the recommendations of the Committee of the preceding year. The measure was opposed, on the part of the manufacturing interests, by the late Sir Robert Peel, with great force of argument, and with an honourable zeal for preserving the rights of the class from which he sprang. A still more formidable opponent of the proposed Corn-Law was Mr. Alexander Baring, the present Lord Ashburton, who was supported by the whole weight and influence of the monetary and commercial interests. On the 3rd of March an effort was made to throw out the bill, but there were only 55 votes for the motion, while the numbers against it amounted to 218. A majority of 162 seemed decisive of the success of the measure. The greatest excitement, however, prevailed in the country, especially in the large towns and manufacturing districts. Placards were posted, protesting against levying a tax on the food of the people; violent harangues were made, which injured the cause they were designed to serve, by alarming the fears of the timid, and some foolish demonstrations of popular violence afforded a pretext for quelling resistance by the employment of a military force. On the 6th of March an excited multitude assembled round the doors of the House of Commons; members were stopped and questioned as to the vote which they were about to give, and some leading advocates of the measure were rather roughly handled. Ultimately the military were called out, and the streets cleared. This duty was not very gently performed; Mr. Lambton, the late Lord Durham, interrupted the debate, to complain to the House of the presence of a military force, and it was not without difficulty that the Speaker succeeded in calming the excitement which this incident produced. Such indeed was the alarm which prevailed, that the gallery during that evening was closed against strangers.

The houses of several of the leading advocates of the Corn-Laws were attacked, and some injury done to the glass and furniture. Shots were fired in return from the house of Mr. Robinson, now Lord Ripon, by which two innocent persons were killed, and the Coroner's juries subsequently found verdicts of wilful murder against certain members of Mr. Robinson's household. Other advocates of the measure, including even the popular Mr. Wilberforce, had detachments of soldiers and police stationed in their houses. But the Government was not daunted; troops were marched to London from Windsor, Brighton, and all the neighbouring stations, so that for some days London had the appearance of a city occupied by a hostile garrison. In the mean time the bill was passed with more than usual rapidity through its stages in the Lower House and sent up to the Lords.

The escape of Napoleon from Elba occurring at this crisis, gave such a diversion to the public mind as to withdraw attention from the progress of the Corn-Law. Its supporters took advantage of the conjuncture to accelerate its progress through the House of Lords; the motion of Earl Grey for time to collect additional information, was very unceremoniously rejected; and, on the 20th of March, the third reading was carried by a majority of 107, the numbers being 128 contents, and 21 non-contents. A very spirited and argumentative Protest, embodying the opinions of the minority, prepared by Lord Grenville, was entered on the journals. This celebrated document is still regarded as a kind of text-book, by the opponents of the Corn-Laws. The Corporation of the City of London, which had, from its first introduction, vehemently opposed the measure, addressed an admirable argumentative Remonstrance to the Prince Regent, praying him to withhold the Royal assent from the bill. This Address was presented on the 23rd of March, and on the evening of the same day the Royal assent was given to the measure.

Protection had now touched the highest point of all its greatness. Until the average price of corn reached 80s. the ports were to be closed absolutely and effectually; even colonial wheat, though then produced in very inconsiderable quantities, could not be admitted until the averages reached 67s. per quarter. Greater stringency was also introduced into the system of striking the averages. It was provided that a new average should be struck quarterly, on the 15th of February, May, August, and November; but it was provided that if during the six weeks subsequent to any of these dates the average prices should fall below the stipulated amount of 80s., no supplies should be admitted for home consumption from any ports between the Eyder and the Bidassoa, that is from Denmark to Spain.

The professed purpose of this act was to secure to the farmer the following rate of prices for his produce:—wheat, 80s. per quarter; rye, beans, and pulse, 53s. per quarter; barley, 40s. per quarter; and oats, 27s. per quarter. Three deficient harvests in 1816–17–18 raised the prices above the rates at which foreign grain was admissible; and, in the two latter years, above 2,600,000 quarters were imported. But high prices produced their usual effect of affording temptation to extravagant speculation. A more extended breadth of country was placed under cultivation, and Providence having granted a most favourable season, the crop of 1820 was estimated to have exceeded the average by one-third, or one-fourth. A tolerable harvest in 1821 did not tend to reduce the surplus, and the derangement between demand and supply was further increased by the superabundant harvest of 1822, which, besides, came unusually early. Prices fell to a ruinously low point; farmers had covenanted for leases and rents, based on the confidence of being able to obtain the average prices which the Legislature had fixed as the limit of prohibition. In this confidence they had speculated to an extravagant extent in the production of grain; and thus the exclusion of foreign competition had led to a system of domestic competition infinitely more injurious to their interests. Every one knows that a very small excess of supply over demand causes a large reduction in price; and the excess of 1822 was indeed smaller, but it four millions of quarters; the excess of 1822 was indeed smaller, but it came into a market already overstocked, at an unusually early period, and thus produced a glut, which, was further increased by the alarm that induced farmers to force sales at almost any price. This was particularly the case with such as had overheld their stocks since 1820, and who found that the value was depreciating every day. To show the injury thus sustained by the farmers, we have arranged, in parallel

columns, the prices sanctioned by the Legislature, the prices obtained in the market, and the difference between them, which may be taken as the measure of the farmer's loss.

Legislative Price.	Market Average.	Difference per qr.
Wheat..... 80s.	38s. 8d.	41s. 4d.
Barley..... 40s.	29s. 4d.	10s. 8d.
Rye..... 53s.	23s. 6d.	29s. 6d.
Beans..... 53s.	28s. 10d.	24s. 2d.
Peas..... 53s.	29s. 4d.	23s. 8d.
Oats..... 27s.	18s. 9d.	8s. 3d.

This ruinous speculation was obviously caused by the false expectations which the Corn-Laws had encouraged; they had led to an extent of corn-tillage more than commensurate to the average consumption of the country in favourable seasons, and, of course, there had been an excess of supply under the contingency of a succession of abundant harvests. It was confessed on all sides that importation had no influence whatever in producing these disastrous results; they were, obviously, the consequence of the system of protection, and yet a new form of protection was adopted as the proper remedy. A new law was passed in 1822, establishing a different scale of duties, which stood as follows:—Wheat at or above 70s., which was now made the pivot point, to pay a duty of 12s., and 5s. additional for the first three months; above 80s. and under 85s., the first low duty of 5s., with an additional 5s. for the first three months; above 85s., there was only a nominal duty of 1s. This law can hardly be said to have ever come fairly into operation; its stringency on importation, after the unfavourable harvest of 1826, was found to be dangerous, and a temporary act was passed, by which a considerable quantity of foreign grain was admitted for home consumption. But, in 1827, when Ministers were pressed to open the ports, they peremptorily refused; prices rose—scarcity threatened the industrious—dangerous tumults took place in the manufacturing districts, and the Government, in alarm, hurried a bill through Parliament permitting all the corn then in bond to be entered for home consumption, and granting the power of admitting half a million quarters of corn at a future time, should the ensuing harvest prove deficient. Such a contingency arrived, and in a more severe form than had been anticipated. The Ministers threw the ports open to certain descriptions of grain in September, and obtained an indemnity from Parliament in the ensuing session. Mr. Canning made an effort to pass a new Corn-Law, on the principle of permitting the free admission of corn at all times on the payment of certain duties graduated by the scale of average prices, or what is now called the principle of the sliding scale. This measure was defeated by the Duke of Wellington in the House of Lords, and abandoned. A temporary act was passed for liberating the corn in bond upon payment of duties according to a fluctuating scale. Nearly 600,000 quarters of wheat were liberated under this act, at a duty averaging above 20s. per quarter. The harvest had been abundant, and the high duty was paid to force the corn into consumption, as there seemed no prospect of such an advance in price as would produce a large diminution of duty. The merchants and importers suffered severe losses by this transaction, while the English farmer was not in the slightest degree benefited.

Before going further, we must notice a change made in the mode of striking and applying the averages in the year 1821. The weekly rates of sale were taken by inspectors in one hundred and forty-five towns named in the act; the average of six weeks of such averages determined the rate of duty in the scale at which imports were admitted, but this latter average was struck anew every successive week, so that the duty fluctuated every seven days. This element of uncertainty was united to the sliding scale proposed by Mr. Charles Grant (afterwards Lord Glenelg) in 1828, the act establishing which received the Royal assent on the 15th of July. We shall insert a table exhibiting the differences between Mr. Canning's and Lord Glenelg's scales, and the duties imposed by each according to the average price of wheat.

Averages of Wheat.	Canning's Scale of Duties.	Glenelg's Scale of Duties.
s.	s. d.	s. d.
73	1 0	1 0
72	1 0	2 8
71	1 0	6 8
70	1 0	10 8
69	2 0	13 8
68	4 0	16 8
67	6 0	18 8
66	8 0	20 8
65	10 0	21 8
64	12 0	22 8
63	14 0	23 8
62	16 0	24 8
61	18 0	25 8
60	20 0	26 8
59	22 0	27 8
58	24 0	28 8
57	26 0	29 8
56	28 0	30 8
55	30 0	31 8
54	32 0	32 8
53	34 0	33 8

It is obvious that Lord Glenelg's scale is much more prohibitory and protective than that proposed by Mr. Canning; in the latter, there is a rest at the averages from 70 to 73 shillings, inclusive, at the rate of one shilling; while in the scale which received the sanction of Parliament there is a series of jumps in this interval which raise the duty from one shilling to 10s. 8d.; all the alterations made in Canning's Bill were decidedly unfavourable to the consumer, and we shall soon see that they brought no compensating benefit to the producer.

Under the article Corn-Laws, in "Knight's Political Dictionary," an article to which we have been frequently indebted for the statistical in-

formation here collected, we find the following account of the effect of this act. "Wheat at 50s. paid a duty of 36s. 8d.; barley at 32s., a duty of 13s. 10d.; oats at 24s., a duty of 10s. 9d. Colonial wheat was admitted at a duty of 6d. when the average of the six weeks was at or above 67s.; and when below 67s. the duty was 5s. the quarter, and for other grain in proportion. Importation was free on payment of a duty of one shilling the quarter when wheat in the home market was 73s. the quarter; barley, 41s.; oats, 31s.; and rye, peas, and beans, 46s. the quarter."

The great evil of this sliding scale to consumers was that it levied a far heavier tax than it professed to raise. In years when the crop, though not deficient in quantity, was inferior in quality, the averages were struck on the price of bad wheat, and thus the nutritive grain was either entirely excluded, or could only be obtained at a most enormous price. This was, in fact, illustrated within the last ten weeks, when there was a difference of more than twenty shillings per quarter between the price of the best wheat and of the inferior qualities in Mark-lane. The cost of nutritive grain was thus fixed by the price of that which was less fit for human food. Lord Fitzwilliam early foresaw this result of the sliding scale, and protested against it with great eagerness and earnestness, but his warnings past unheeded, until the discrepancy became so glaring towards the close of the last year.

Another consequence of the sliding scale was to render the Corn-trade, to a great extent, a mere gambling speculation. "The gain of speculators," says Mr. Salomons, "is calculated not only on the advance in the price of corn, but also on the fall in the scale of duty; and, as the duty falls in a greater ratio than the price of the corn rises, the duty operates as a bounty to withhold sales. There was a great temptation to raise the averages by fictitious sales. Supposing corn to be at the average of 68s., the duty was 23s. 8d.; but, if the averages could be raised 10s. higher, the speculator could liberate his corn from bond at 1s.; and, if he had a large stock, the temptation to get it into the market at a low rate was all but irresistible. In the year 1838, the duty underwent thirty different changes, between January and November, and, in the short period of two weeks, went up from 1s. to 10s. 8d. per quarter; but this immense variation must be attributed to the jerks or jumps in Lord Glenelg's sliding scale.

We copy from the article in "Knight's Political Dictionary" an example of the great variations of the sliding scale in the short space of six weeks, of the year 1838:—

Week ending Sept. 13th	1s. 0d.
" 20th	2s. 8d.
" 27th	10s. 8d.
" Oct. 4th	16s. 8d.
" 11th	20s. 8d.
" 18th	21s. 8d.
" 25th	22s. 8d.

During the week of nominal duty, no less than 1,514,047 quarters of foreign wheat were liberated from bond, and flung suddenly into the English markets, deranging every calculation of the merchant and farmer, but affording a rich harvest to the speculators. The cargoes which arrived too late to profit by the low duties perished in the warehouses, and were thrown into the sea when they became unfit for human food. It is obvious that such speculation could only be ventured upon in neighbouring markets—such as Hamburg, Dantzic, and the ports of the Baltic; hence there was a scramble, when the scale approached the lowest duty, in these markets, which deranged the whole course of English commerce. There could be no demand for our manufactures, as the call for corn came by fits and starts, for which no mercantile provision could be made; and the export of bullion which thus became necessary, caused great confusion in all monetary affairs, and at one time threatened to drain the Bank of England.

Fluctuations of price were not prevented, as we have seen, from the variations in the rates of duty already noticed, and agricultural distress attained such height in the years 1833 and 1836, that it was noticed in the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament; and Committees of Parliament were appointed in both years to investigate the subject, but without attaining any practical result.

The worst evils of the Corn-Laws were, however, felt in the manufacturing districts. In the autumn of 1838 an association was formed to obtain their repeal; and Mr. Paulton, with whom the movement chiefly originated, accompanied by Mr. J. B. Smith, delivered lectures on the subject in the principal towns of the kingdom. From this association sprang the Anti Corn-Law League, which has now become so powerful as a political body, though holding itself aloof from political party.

It was now obvious that the Corn-Laws, as they stood, could not be maintained, and Lord John Russell, as the organ of the Government, on the 7th of May, 1841, proposed that the principle of a sliding scale should be abandoned altogether, and a system of fixed duties established in its stead. The fixed duties proposed by Lord John Russell were as follows:—

Wheat	8s. 0d. per Quarter.
Rye, peas, and beans	5 0 "
Barley	4 6 "
Oats	3 4 "

It is not necessary to discuss the policy of a project which never passed into a law, and which has since been formally abandoned by its proposer. In the general election, which took place in June and July, 1841, the Government was defeated, and the preponderating influence of the agricultural interest led to the formation of a new Ministry supposed to be favourable to the continuance of agricultural protection.

The sliding scale was originally designed by its author, Mr. Huskisson, as a compromise between the agricultural and manufacturing interests. Having been rejected when proposed by Mr. Canning, it was

rendered more stringently protective before it was again submitted to Parliament by Lord Glenelg. Its effects, however, had been so disastrous, that it was too generally condemned to be maintained; and, soon after his accession to power, Sir Robert Peel resolved that it should undergo some very important modifications. The uncertainty of its operations, the temptations it held out to tampering with the averages, and the inefficiency of the system as a source of revenue, are shown from the following return of the quantities of foreign corn admitted, and the rates of duty paid during the continuance of the first sliding scale, that is from the 15th of July, 1828, to the 29th of April, 1842. It will be seen that nearly one-half of the foreign wheat and flour was admitted at the lowest rate of duty, and comparatively little at the higher rates.

Duty.	Wheat.	Wheat Flour.
1s.	5,788,045 qrs.	1,759,372 cwt.
2s. 8d.	2,880,613	862,262
6s. 8d.	1,997,226	519,123
10s. 8d.	820,342	243,120

We shall now compare Mr. Canning's proposed sliding scale, and that established in 1828, with the scale adopted by Parliament, on the recommendation of Sir Robert Peel, in 1842.

Average per Quarter. Canning Scale. Glenelg, or 1828 Scale. Peel, or 1842 Scale.

s.	s.	s. d.	s.
73	1	0	1
72	1	8	2
71	1	6	3
70	1	10	4
69	2	13	5
68	4	16	5
67	6	18	5
66	8	20	6
65	10	21	7
64	12	22	8
63	14	23	9
62	16	24	10
61	18	25	11
60	20	26	12
59	22	27	13
58	24	28	14
57	26	29	15
56	28	30	16
55	30	31	17
54	32	32	17
53	34	33	17
52	0	0	18
51	0	0	19
All under	0	0	20

Without entering into any detailed comparison of these systems, we may note that Mr. Canning wished to secure the native producer a mean price of 66s. per quarter; Lord Glenelg, a mean price of 72s.; and Sir Robert Peel, a mean price of 56s. per quarter. It may be added that both sliding scales have failed in fulfilling the expectations they raised. Under Lord Glenelg's act the averages were as low as 58s. in 1832, 52s. in 1833, 46s. in 1834, 39s. in 1835, and 36s. in 1836. Under Sir Robert Peel's act, the averages were down to 45s. in the spring of last year.

The lowest rate of duty under Sir R. Peel's act occurs for rye, peas, and beans, when the price is 42s. and upwards per quarter; for barley, when the price is 37s.; and for oats, when the price is 27s. per quarter and upwards. One hundred and thirty-eight new towns have been added to the one hundred and fifty by which the averages were regulated under the former act. The average of six weeks regulates importation as before.

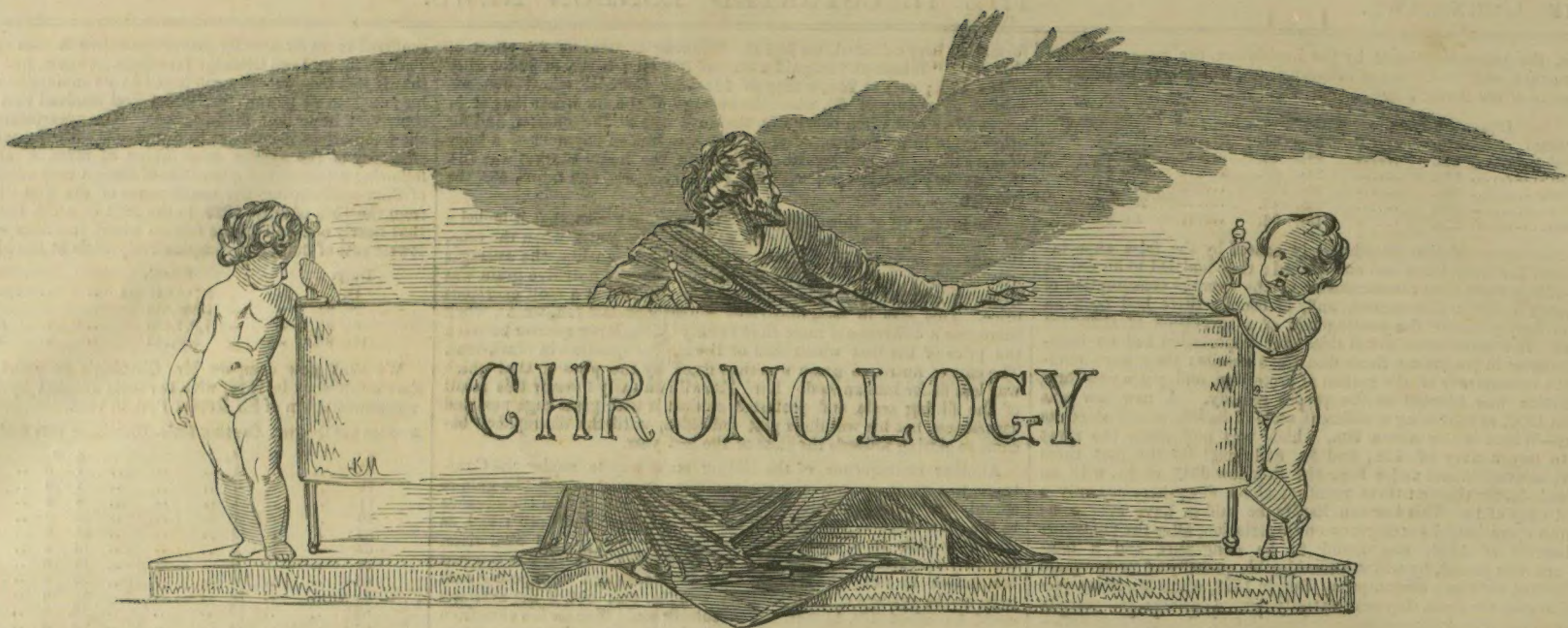
Further changes were subsequently made by Sir Robert Peel; one regulating the corn-trade with all the British Colonies except Canada; the other exclusively confined to the Canadian trade. It will be seen that both of these acts, but more especially the latter, grant great relaxations in the protective system. Under the act of 1828 the duty on colonial wheat was 5s. when the averages were under 67s. per quarter, but permitted importation at a nominal duty of 6d. when the averages rose above that sum. By Sir Robert Peel's act regulating the importation of colonial corn, the following rates are established:—

Under 55s. the quarter	a duty of 5s.
55s. and under 56s.	4s.
56s. and under 57s.	3s.
57s. and under 58s.	2s.
58s. and upwards	1s.

The Canadian Legislature, at the instance of the British Government, having imposed a duty of 3s. per quarter on all wheat imported into Canada, an Act was passed, which came into operation in 1843, admitting Canadian corn to be imported for home consumption at all times, on payment of a fixed duty of 1s. per quarter. Thus, we have at this moment three distinct sets of laws and regulations for the importation of corn—1st, the foreign sliding scale; 2nd, the colonial sliding scale; and 3rd, the Canadian fixed duty.

The progress of the party opposed to all restrictions on the importation of food is not accurately measured by the increase of support which Mr. Villiers's motion for the total and immediate repeal of the Corn-Laws has received; but, even thus viewed, its advance is remarkable. In 1842, the supporters of Mr. Villiers's motion formed a minority of 92; their numbers increased to 140 in 1843; to 165 in 1844; and to 188 in 1845.

We have brought down the history of the legislation on the import of corn to the present crisis, when a further change is imminent. On the nature of that change we have no wish to speculate; instead of discussing a doubtful present, we have been anxious to exhibit the experience of the past, as a source of guidance and direction for the future.



JULY 1, TO DECEMBER 24.

JULY.

1. A splendid Hippodrome opened at Paris.—News received of an extensive fire at Calcutta, on May 13; and of the burning of the Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, June 11.—Terrible steam-boat explosion at New Orleans: 30 persons killed or maimed.

2. The manufacturing town of Thuris, canton of the Grisons, destroyed by fire.—Great fire at Smyrna: 7000 houses burnt.

3. Funeral of Sir William Follett, in the Temple Church.—Continued disturbances by the Jesuits, at Lucerne.

4. Decrease on the Quarter's Revenue, £739,847.—Lord Huntingtower refused protection by the Court of Bankruptcy.—News of the burning and massacre of 600 Arabs by the French troops in Algeria.

5. Destructive storm at Havre.—Insurrection in Catalonia.

6. A drunken juror committed by the Coroner to Giltspur street Compter.—Great thunder-storm at Nottingham.—Mr. Fitzroy Kelly appointed Solicitor-General.

7. News of the death of Gen. Jackson, June 8; and of an affray and slaughter in New Zealand.

8. In the House of Commons, the Ministry escaped a defeat only by a Majority of 8 on the Scotch Universities Bill.—Dr. Alder installed Chief Rabbi of the English Jews.

9. Robberies and assassinations continued throughout Greece.—Frightful ravages of cholera in Western India.

10. Dreadful shipwreck in the Black Sea: 150 persons perished.—The British and French ships of war prepared for action at Buenos Ayres.

11. Riot and loss of life at Armagh.—Continued insurrection and slaughter in Catalonia.—The fine town of Termosa, in Bulgaria, destroyed by fire.—Third conflict in New Zealand between the settlers and Heke's party; the British troops repulsed.

12. The Exhibition of Cartoons in Westminster Hall opened gratuitously.—Mr. Fitzroy Kelly returned M.P. for Cambridge, by a majority of 17 only.

13. Grand Pas de Quatre at her Majesty's Theatre, by Taglioni, C. Grisi, L. Grahn, and Cerito.—The Royal Court of Paris decided duelling to be no crime, or offence.—A bill, legalising the London Art-Union, passed in the House of Commons.—Mr. Chambers, the banker, obtained his certificate from the Court of Bankruptcy.—The admission of the slave-grown sugar of the Spanish Colonies into Great Britain negatived in both Houses of Parliament.—Great Agricultural Society's Meeting at Shrewsbury.—Grand Naval Review at Spithead, by her Majesty; and departure of the Experimental Squadron.

14. Death of Mr. Adolphus, the celebrated barrister.—Johnson, the Romford banker (once Lord Mayor), refused his certificate by the Bankruptcy Court.—Ten men, Portuguese or Spaniards, tried at Exeter, for murdering several Englishmen on board a captured slave, off the coast of Africa; three days' trial, seven found guilty, three acquitted; the sentence subsequently reversed. Mexico declared war against the United States.

15. Death of Earl Grey, at Howick, aged 81.

16. Disturbances in Italy, in consequence of the suppression of the Jesuits in France.

17. Accounts of the burning of the *Uruguay* Indian, off the Cape de Verd Islands; loss £50,000.—News of the defeat of the Arabs by the Pacha of Damascus; 250 prisoners beheaded.—Terrible fire in New York: 300 houses burnt.

18. Frightful insurrections throughout Upper Albania, and in the north of Hungary.

19. Retirement and dismissal of certain members of the Board of Ordnance, for trafficking in railway shares.—Government refused to remunerate the Peninsular officers for their military services.—Opening of the New Hall of Commerce, at Ipswich.—Death of Viscount Canterbury, aged sixty-five.—Terrible hurricane at Halmstadt, in Norway.

20. Marshal Bugeaud declared responsible for the late massacre of Arabs by the French.—Verdict of justifiable homicide in the case of a man shot by the police at Bal-linhassig fair, on June 30.

21. Mr. C. Buller's motion for censuring the Government of New Zealand negatived by 89 to 95.—Great agitation in the Railway Market.

22. Arrival of the King of Holland in the metropolis.

23. Destructive overflow of the Vistula at Warsaw.

24. The *Great Britain* iron steam-ship left Liverpool, on her first passage across the Atlantic.

25. A horse died of hydrophobia, at Cuckfield, Sussex.—At New Orleans and Quebec, the thermometer stood at 96 degrees; sun strokes frequent.

26. News of a second great fire at Quebec, on June 21; in this and the fire on May 23, 3000 houses burnt; loss, £1,250,000.—Intelligence of the annexation of Texas to the United States.—News of the rich city of Matanzas destroyed by fire, on June 26.—Alarming accident on the South Eastern Railway.

27. Opening of the Eastern Counties Railway branch to Cambridge and Ely.—The Vice Chancellor refused to grant an injunction upon a second translation of a French farce.—Violent collision on the London and Birmingham Railway: several passengers injured.—A man discharged from York Castle, after 29½ years imprisonment.—Great Regatta at Havre: first prize won by British sailors with one of the worst French boats.—Fall of snow, 3 inches deep, between Bangor and Bethesda.

28. During this month, gambling in railway shares rose to a desperate pitch.—Several Orange magistrates in Ireland dismissed for having presided at Orange meetings.

29. The *Cambria* steamer made the passage from Liverpool to New York in 11 days.

AUGUST.

1. The great arsenal at Toulon destroyed by fire; loss £1,000,000.—Death of Mr. J. Hickey, of Athlone, aged 105 years, 6 months.

2. Taglioni's farewell to the stage.—Terrible fire-damp explosion near Merthyr Tydvil: twenty-nine lives lost.—Escape of 200 convicts between Carthage and Castile, and massacre of the troops conducting them.

3. Election of the Portuguese Cortes greatly in favour of the Government.—Three persons killed by lightning in a house at St. Genevieve, Canada.—The Argentine Squadron captured off Monte Video by the French and English.

4. Terrible accident on the Northern and Eastern Railway.—Meeting of the British Archaeological Association at Winchester.—Chinese ransom money, 62 cwt. of silver, received at the Mint.—Disturbances in the Lebanon, among the Maronites and Druses.—A very rich mine of quicksilver discovered in Tuscany.

5. Death of Baron Bosio, the eminent French sculptor.—Tiflis, the capital of Georgia, destroyed by fire.

6. Great fluctuations in the English Money Market, according to the weather.—Religious riot at Halberstadt, at the Abbé Ronge's first sermon.—Two girls born in France united through the greater extent of their bodies.

7.—The Select Committee of the House of Lords sat thirteen hours on the London and York Railway bill.

8.—Parliament prorogued by her Majesty in person.

9.—Her Majesty and Prince Albert embarked at Woolwich, on their tour to Germany. On their return, they embarked at Antwerp, September 7, and, on the following day, landed at Treport, to visit the King of the French. They reached the Isle of Wight on September 10.—Verdict of £200 damages, at the Croydon Assizes, in a libel case, Vallance v. the Duke of Brunswick.

10.—The *Great Britain* steam-ship reached New York.

11.—A dead-end of £1000 levied by a Coroner's Jury upon an engine during the late fatal collision on the London and Birmingham Railway.

12.—The Statue of Beethoven, at Frankfurt, inaugurated with great ceremony, accompanied by festivals, for several days.—The Leicester Monument founded, at Holkham.—Great encampment at Bordeaux.—Religious riots at Leipzig.

13.—News received from Sir John Franklin's Arctic Expedition: all well.—Alarming accounts of the weather and the state of the crops in England.—Death of Mr. B. Wood, M.P. for Southwark.—Great distress and apprehended famine in Poland.

14. Return of Mr. Hudson, M.P. for Sunderland: the *Times* express of the intelligence travelled upwards of 305 miles in eight hours, and on railway at the rate of 75 miles per hour!

15.—The Sultan summarily dismissed three of his Ministers.—First service in a church of the German Catholic sect, at Breslau, by M. Ronge.

16. Great Fire in Aldermanbury: £300,000 loss.—Dreadful Colliery Explosion near Dudley.—Disturbances at Madrid: the dynasty of Narvaez in danger.

17. Hurricane at Rouen, which swept away houses, trees, and crops, and overthrew three large factories: 65 persons killed, and many others seriously injured.—Destructive hurricanes in Holland.—Pine-apples sold in the streets of London at a penny a slice.—Gallant defeat of Malay pirates by the British, on the coast of Borneo.

18. Snow storm at Framlingham, Suffolk.—Several persons drowned during a storm at Assynt, Sutherlandshire.—Great Protestant demonstration at Lisburn.

19. Explosion at Jarrow Colliery, by which 40 persons were killed: the Government instituted an official inquiry into the causes of the occurrence.—Serious riots in Berwickshire, and at Dunfermline.

20. Destructive fire at Bordeaux: six persons killed by the falling of the ruins.

21. Several persons killed by the fall of a cotton-mill chimney, at Blackburn.

22. The Worcester Musical Festival commenced.—Violent hurricane at Paris.

23. News of continued disturbances in New Zealand.—Three men killed on the works of the Lancaster and Carlisle Railway.

24. Collision on the Birmingham and Gloucester Railway: two persons killed, and several severely injured.—Hartmann's great works, at Chemnitz, in Prussia, totally destroyed by fire.—News of Count Woronzoff's defeat by the Circassians.—The French retained possession of Tahiti.—The town of Colonia, in the River Plate, captured by the French and English squadron.

SEPTEMBER.

1. The Baron Achille Maquard committed suicide by throwing himself from one of the Towers of Notre Dame, at Paris.—The Rev. G. Ward, of Balliol College, Oxford, seceded to the Roman Catholic Church.

2. News of an Attack on Tamatave, Madagascar, by the French and English.—The King of Prussia ordered that such of the military as would forego their rations of brandy, might receive the value thereof in money.—M. Thiers arrived in Madrid.—Eruption of Mount Hecla.—200 Italian soldiers drowned by the falling of a bridge between Belluno and Feltri.

3. Insurrection in Madrid; several persons killed and wounded.

4. Great Fire at Philadelphia.

5. Great devastation at Tortosa, by the inundation of the Ebro.

6. Meeting of the British Archaeological Association, (now Institute), at Winchester.

7. The Inquiry into the Management of the Andover Union transferred to the Hampshire Quarter Sessions.—Continued insurrection in Madrid.—The Hanoverian Government resolved to suppress duelling in that country.—Judge Story died at Boston, U. S., aged 66.

8. Sir W. Molesworth returned M.P. for Southwark, by a majority of 766.—News of the defeat of the Russians in the Caucasus.

9. A labourer killed in the railway tunnel at Liverpool.—Fall of a Coffee-House at Salamanca; five persons killed.—Mrs. Theobald, of sporting celebrity, died of a fall from her horse.

10. Forty-six persons drowned by the sinking of a schooner in Brest Roads.

11. The *Great Britain* arrived at Liverpool, on her first passage from New York.—The settlement of the Railway and Share account in London proceeded satisfactorily.—The religious excitement continued in Germany: Ronge still received with enthusiasm.

12. Destructive fire at Sir Charles Price's oil and tur-

pentine warehouse, Blackfriars.—The Great St Leger Stakes at Doncaster won by "The Baron."—The Cork and Bandon Railway commenced.—The Arabs, under Abd-el-Kader, cut to pieces a squadron of French cavalry.

17. A splendid gold dessert service presented to Sir J. E. Tennent by the Irish Society of London.—Extensive new tea warehouses opened in the London Docks.—The Norwich Musical Festival commenced.—Grand military manoeuvres at the camp of St. Medard, near Bordeaux.—Continued disturbances at Barcelona; 12 insurgents shot.

18. Terrible explosion in the royal arsenal at Woolwich; seven persons killed.—Great excitement and gambling in railway shares in the metropolis, and the large towns of England.—Failure of the potato crop through disease in England and Ireland, Holland and Belgium.

19. Congress of Italian Savans held at Naples.—50 houses burnt at Morton Hampstead, near Exeter.—Robbery and assassination very frequent in the environs of Paris.—News of Count Woronzoff's sanguinary campaign in the Caucasus.—Death of Donald Ross, Drummer, aged 116 years!

20. M. Roage continued his triumphant course in Germany.—Railways proposed in the East Indies, with great success.—The Wuzer of Lahore shot to death by his own troops.

21. Death of the Bishop of Bath and Wells.—The celebrated Jenny Lind engaged for the Prussian Opera, at nearly £4000 per annum.—Three shocks of earthquake at Comrie, in Scotland.

22. A party of Italian refugees made an insurrectionary attempt in the Pontifical States, and took the town of Rimini by surprise. At Ravenna the rising took place on the 24th.

23. Great Repeal Demonstration at Tipperary: procession 5 miles long! 1200 persons at the dinner.

24. Alderman Johnson elected Lord Mayor; Alderman Wood being again passed over.—Frightful mortality from fever, on board the sloop *Eclair*: upwards of 60 persons dead.—Opening of the splendid new Theatre Royal, at Manchester.—The Regent's Canal sold conditionally to a Railway Company, for a million of money.

OCTOBER.

1. Death of Earl Spencer, in his 64th year, at Wiseton Hall, Notts.

2. Great Fire at Montreal.

3. Great Panic on the Bourse, at Vienna.

4. Hungerford (Charing Cross) Suspension Bridge sold to a Railway Company, for £226,000.—The Vintage in Portugal the worst known for twenty years.

5. Panic in the Money and Railway Share Market of Paris.—Resignation of Marshal Saut.

6. Arrival of M. Thiers in London.—Greece in a very disturbed state, from the excesses of the Albanian soldiery.

7. Terrible hall storm in the Ionian Islands; some stones weighing three ounces.

8. Continued eruption of Mount Hecla.

9. Inauguration of the Madeleine, at Paris.—Alarming accounts of the failure of the potato crop in Ireland.

10. Death of the philanthropic Mrs. Fry, aged 66.

11. The Twelfth Eisteddfod of the Cymreigyddion, held at Aberystwyth.—Destructive earthquake at Mitylene: a whole village destroyed.

12. Decline of the Railway Market, owing to the Bank advance in discount from 2½ to 3 per cent; Consols, 98½.

13. Great Repeal Demonstration at Sligo.—Mr. Basevi, the architect, killed by a fall from the west tower of Ely Cathedral.

14. Death of Count Cassini, the celebrated astronomer, aged 90.—Continued disturbances in the Papal States; 7000 persons in the state prisons.—Conflict of the French with Abd-el-Kader's troops.

15. Great panic in the London Stock and Share Market.—Duelling prohibited by the King of Prussia.

16. Great dinner at Sunderland, to Mr. Hudson, M.P.

17. The Lord Mayor formally excluded by the Governors from holding a Court at Christ's Hospital.—The Hull and Hamburg steamer, *Margaret*, wrecked off the Coast of Norden; 19 lives lost.

18. Deplorable accounts of the harvest received at Stockholm.

19. Extensive Fire at Gravesend.

20. A Commission appointed by Government to investigate the potato disease.—Defeat of the Arabs in Algeria, by the French troops: 300 killed.

21. Marble Statue of Queen Victoria inaugurated in the Royal Exchange.—Great excitement of the Bourse at Paris.—News of the English and French squadron, in the River Plate, having commenced operations against Rosas.—Death of Sir Matthew Tierney, aged 68.—The bones of Gundreda, daughter of William the Conqueror, and of William de Warrenne, her husband, discovered on the site of the Priory, at Lewes.

22. A whale, 22 feet long, captured in Belfast Lough.—The Emperor and Empress of Russia visited Palermo.—The splendid new National Theatre at Lisbon opened.

23. Lincoln's Inn New Hall and Library inaugurated by her Majesty.

24. Lieut. Waghorn arrived in London with the India Mail, from Alexandria, via Trieste, in 29½ days.—Thorwaldsen's Statue of Lord Byron placed in Trinity College, Cambridge.

NOVEMBER.

1. Great fall in the funds at Vienna.—Mount Hecla still in eruption: smoke 120 fathoms high.

2. The Freedom of the City of Edinburgh presented to Lord John Russell.—G. Maynard and D. Garrett sentenced, by the Central Criminal Court, to 14 years' transportation, for extensive railway robberies.—Professor Faraday announced his discovery of the direct relation of electricity and magnetism to light.—Great Medical Congress at Paris: 3000 practitioners present.

3. Grand Festivities commenced at Harewood House, near Leeds, and lasted to the 9th inst.—Julia Hickey died near Tralee, aged 112 years.

4. The merchants of Hong Kong memorialized Lord

Stanley on their grievances.—Colliery Explosion near Newton, Lancashire; 9 lives lost.—Elopement from Brighton, of Lady Adela Villiers with Captain Ibbetson.

6. Monetary Panic at Copenhagen.

7. A railway superintendent and engineman sentenced by the Edinburgh Court of Justiciary, to 12 months imprisonment, for "culpable homicide."—Five soldiers condemned for insurrection at Valencia, and shot the next day.

12. Various meetings held in the Metropolis and the provinces to petition the Queen to "Open the Ports," for the admission of foreign Corn, duty free.—The Earl of St. Germans appointed Postmaster-General in the room of the Earl of Lonsdale resigned.—Catalonia in a state of siege; military executions frequent in Valencia.

13. The Trent Valley Railway commenced near Tamworth, by Sir Robert Peel turning the first turf.—The "Martyrs' Memorial" completed at Edinburgh.

14. Ronge received with great tumult at Weimar.

15. News from Burmah of the dethronement of Tharawaddie.—The Grand Duke Constantine of Russia visited Plymouth.—Mr. Rutherford, M.P., elected Lord Rector of Glasgow.—Amateur performance by eminent authors and artists, at the St. James's Theatre.—The Civil Governor of Tambor announced the sale of 3702 peasants, belonging to a Russian nobleman, to pay his debts.

17. Deaths of the Earl of Verulam; of the Dowager Lady Holland; and of Dr. Wade.

18. Famine much dreaded in Sweden.

19. Grand Fancy Dress Ball and Concert, at Guildhall, for the benefit of the City Ward Schools.—General Narvaez created Duke of Valencia.—Great excitement at Madrid: press prosecutions frequent.—The Glasgow City Theatre burnt.

20. Dr. Wilberforce elected Bishop of Oxford; and Dr. Buckland appointed Dean of Westminster.—Commencement of the Sale of Lansdown Tower and its valuable contents, the property of the late Mr. Beckford, at Bath.

21. Railway and Commercial Crisis on the Paris Bourse.—Lord John Russell addressed the Electors of London, advocating the total repeal of the Corn-Laws.

22. Death of Dr. Alexander, Bishop of Jerusalem.

23. A railway opened from Macclesfield to the Manchester and Birmingham line, at Cheadle Hulme.—Applications to be made to Parliament, next Session, for 630 new lines of railway in England and Wales: capital, £258,000,000.

24. A fine statue of Dr. Watts set up in Abney Park Cemetery.—The Grand Duke Constantine of Russia embarked at Plymouth.—Lord Morpeth joined the Anti-Corn Law League.—Great boat-race on the Tyne, at Newcastle, won by Clasper, of that place.—Navigation between St. Petersburg and Cronstadt stopped by the frost.—The practice of "Police Disguises" stated, at the Central Criminal Court, to be sanctioned by the authorities.

26. Alarm about this time throughout France, on account of the dreaded scarcity of corn.—Revolt spread through Algeria.—Dreadful explosion at the Bishopwearmouth iron-works: four persons killed, twenty-two injured.—Ibrahim Pacha arrived at Toulon from Genoa.

30. Royal decree authorising the free admission of flour into Belgium until next June.—Nearly 800 plans of new Railways deposited with the Board of Trade.—The MSS. of the poet Gray sold by auction for £1500.

DECEMBER.

1. A verdict of Manslaughter returned by a Coroner's Jury against the driver of a pilot engine on the Midland Railway, which ran into another train, and killed a policeman.—Cooke's Circus at Glasgow destroyed by fire.

3. The Experimental Squadron, (except the *Daring*) arrived in Plymouth Sound.—Ronge returned to Breslau in great triumph.—Buenos Ayres still blockaded by the combined forces of England and France.

4. Considerable excitement caused by its being stated in the *Times*, that Government would shortly propose the Total Repeal of the Corn Laws.

6. Great depression in the Railway Share Market.

8. A monk and three servants killed, a short time since, by the falling of an avalanche on the St. Bernard.—Mount Vesuvius had been for some time threatening an eruption.

9. M. Selling, a Lutheran minister, started as an apostle of temperance.—An iron suspension bridge at Chaus-sin (Jura), carried away by floods.

10. Sir Robert Peel and his Ministerial Colleagues resigned office.—The Smithfield Cattle Show opened; and continued till Saturday.

11. Lord John Russell sent for by her Majesty, and empowered to form a Ministry.—Great overflow of the Thames; much damage done.

12. The Emperor of Russia arrived at Rome.—A new planet discovered by M. Encke, of Driesen.

13. The Anti Corn Law movement commenced in the Metropolis.—Ten persons killed by a steam boiler explosion, in a cotton-mill at Bolton.—The Spanish Cortes opened with a speech from the Queen: English cotton manufacture to be admitted at a reduced duty.

17. The news of the resignation of the Peel Ministry, excited a great sensation in Paris; fall in the funds and railway shares.—A young woman committed at the Central Criminal Court, of murdering an aged woman in Westminster, by strangling and suffocating her.

19. Death of Lord Wharncliffe, in his 60th year.

20. Several Anti-Corn-law meetings held throughout the country during the past week.—Return of the Peel Ministry to office; Lord John Russell having declined to form an Administration.

22. The American President's Message received in London: the tone altogether hostile.—Messrs. Smith and Witley's extensive foundry at Liverpool destroyed by fire: loss, £20,000.—Opening of the Sheffield and Manchester Railway.

23. Capt. Johnstone, of the ship *Tory*, committed for trial on the charge of murdering three of his crew.

24. The Railway Share Market continued much depressed.

DIRECTIONS TO THE BINDER.

The History of the Corn-laws is to be placed at the end of Vol. VII.